

No. 65,552

FRIDAY APRIL 12 1996

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Redgrave  
to ship  
oars after  
Olympic  
Games



### Retired early

All-rounder Richard Cake could have been the next CB Fry. Instead he's joining ICI

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### Valerie Grove

Why Nazi hunter Simon Wiesenthal will never let murderers rest in peace

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### FREE CONCERT

Take a friend to hear the RPO  
PLUS: classical CDs offer

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### Too old to die

Hellraising rocker Paul Westerberg explains why he loves the quiet life

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First attack on Beirut for 14 years

## Israeli raid may delay peace talks

By ROSS DUNN IN JERUSALEM AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AT LEAST five people were killed yesterday when Israeli helicopter gunships fired rockets into the southern suburbs of Beirut in a revenge attack against Hezbollah guerrillas. It was Israel's first raid on the Lebanese capital for 14 years.

The attacks appear likely to delay the next stage of the Middle East peace process: agreement between Syria and Israel. Though Lebanon is not directly involved in the process, the country has a heavy Syrian military presence. The attacks may well give Damascus the excuse to delay further this next, most difficult, part of the negotiations.

The Clinton Administration last night urged all parties to show restraint but refused to condemn Israel's action. "Fundamentally the problem is created by [Hezbollah's] rocket attacks into northern Israel," Warren Christopher, the US Secretary of State, said. Those had created a "very dangerous situation" and "the parties ought to recognise that the way to resolve this problem is for those rocket attacks to be stopped".

General Amiram Levine, the top military commander in northern Israel, said that the military operations could last several days.

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, ordered the assault after Hezbollah fired rockets into northern Israel on Wednesday.



Tuesday, wounding 36 people, and killed a soldier in the occupied border zone on

and one was wounded when three missiles hit the village of Shur. Another car was hit in a helicopter raid in the Tyre region, wounding the driver.

A Lebanese army soldier was also killed and three were injured in a separate helicopter raid on an anti-aircraft post on the outskirts of Tyre. Mohsen Dallal, the Defence Minister, said, Israeli artillery shelling wounded two more civilians.

Ehud Barak, the Israeli Foreign Minister, and a former military chief of staff, said no area of Lebanon was immune from such attacks so long as Israeli citizens had to take shelter from Hezbollah fighters operating in the south of the country.

Hezbollah leaders threatened to hit back at Israel "and burn the earth" under its feet.

Fadi Bouez, Lebanon's Foreign Minister, said he was considering launching a complaint with the UN Security Council after the Israeli attacks. "If Israel means peace then it is destroying it today and it's contributing to more tension in the region," he said.

Syria confined its comments to a radio broadcast which said that Israel has misjudged the situation and jeopardised its chances of peace with Damascus. At this stage Israel is counting on Syria's official reaction as being little more than rhetoric.



Seven-year-old pilot Jessica Dubroff and her father, Lloyd, who were killed yesterday

## 7-year-old girl pilot killed in record bid to cross America

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A SEVEN-year-old girl who was attempting to fly across America was killed yesterday when her single-engined Cessna crashed.

Jessica Dubroff died instantly when the plane hit the ground soon after it had taken off in bad weather in Cheyenne, Wyoming, at the start of the second leg of the trip. The Cessna came down in a residential area but no houses were hit. It appeared that the pilot may have steered the aircraft away from homes, so that it crashed in a road.

Jessica's father, Lloyd, a business consultant, also died in one of the Cessna's two rear passenger seats. The other victim was Joe Reid, a flight instructor, who was at Jessica's side in order to meet aviation authority requirements. Solo flight is not permitted by children under the age of 16.

A witness, Ron Nimmo, said that the Cessna was circling but suddenly went into a dive. The victims were taken to hospital but were declared dead on arrival.

The Cessna had taken off in rain, hail and wind. It was not known who was at the controls when the plane crashed.

Jessica flew in to Cheyenne on Wednesday evening, executing a fair landing after a wobbly approach. She was greeted by a crowd of schoolchildren who held placards saying "Good Luck, Jessica". On the day before her flight began she said she had slept for only two hours, "because I was so excited".

The record-breaking attempt began on Wednesday afternoon at Half Moon Bay

airfield near San Francisco, California. Jessica had devised her own flight path, chartering a 600-mile route over the Rockies, the vast Midwestern and the Great Lakes. She intended to land in Falmouth, Massachusetts, where her family once lived.

The Cessna's controls were altered to suit the girl's short limbs. Before starting her journey, Jessica announced: "I'm going to fly until I die." She first rode in a small plane on her sixth birthday when she was allowed to take the controls briefly, and from that day she was hooked. Despite having an instructor at her side, she intended to do all the flying. In the event of Mr Reid having to take the controls in an emergency, Jessica would

There are few sights crueler than loving parents working on their own image of reflected glory. Norris McWhirter on the deadly urge to break records..... Page 14

have had to repeat that leg of the journey in order to qualify as a transcontinental pilot.

Child aviation has become increasingly common in America with parents anxious to see their young assume the airs of adulthood, and at the same time perform to the peak of their abilities. The record for youngest airborne navigation across north America is held by nine-year-old Tony Allengena, who achieved the feat in 1988.

The Guinness Book of Records recently stopped publishing child aviation records, for fear of an accident.

## Labour the centre party, Blair tells US

By PETER RIDDELL IN NEW YORK

LABOUR has become the party of the centre, speaking for the mainstream majority, Tony Blair said yesterday as he sought to show that his party had transformed itself and was ready for office.

His speech, to 600 businessmen at the British-American Chamber of Commerce in New York, marked a further big step in his attempt to distance new Labour from its

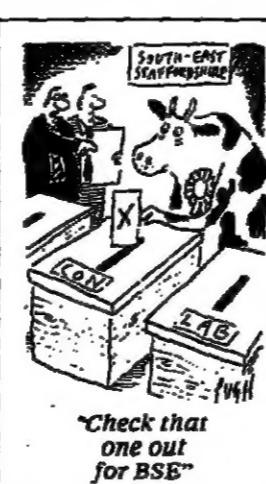
past. In remarks that will increase the doubts of the Labour Left about his aims, Mr Blair said that Labour had stripped "outdated ideology" from its values and freed the party from "the excess influence of pressure and interest groups". Nowhere in his speech did the word socialism appear.

Instead, he presented new Labour as a "party of the centre as well as the centre-left". He said: "A radical centre is needed to answer the competitive challenges for the economy while enhancing social stability and coherence."

Mr Blair argued that the old solutions of Left and Right no longer applied and he believed that the centre could be fertile ground for radical politics.

"The extremes whether of Left or Right simply will not meet

Continued on page 2, col 5



### German airport fire kills 15

At least 15 people were reported killed and more than 100 injured when a fire broke out in a flower shop at Düsseldorf international airport, fire fighters and police said. Many of the casualties were overcome by thick smoke. The terminal was evacuated and the airport closed to all air traffic, police said. Page II

## Separation for Marina Ogilvy

By ALAN HAMILTON

MARINA MOWATT, daughter of Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy and a cousin of the Queen, has separated from her husband after six years of marriage. It was announced yesterday.

Mrs Mowatt, aged 29 and 30th in line of succession to the throne, married her photographer husband Paul, 32, in 1990 when she was six months pregnant, and amid reports of opposition from her parents. The couple now have two children, aged six and three.

A statement issued on behalf of the couple by solicitors Max Bittel Greene yesterday blamed the separation on long-standing marital difficulties, and emphasised that no one else was involved. "Both Marina and Paul are very sad that this situation has been reached, and both are now intent that the interests of their



Marina Ogilvy: very sad

children must be protected. This is a private matter and, for the sake of the children, Marina and Paul wish to avoid unnecessary publicity which might upset the children. For this reason, no further statements will be issued."

A spokesman for Mrs Mowatt's parents said last night that Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus were sad to learn of what had happened. "They will of course do everything they can to help their daughter and her young family."

Curse of Helot, page 3

## Egypt seizes Cunard liner that hit reef

By JONATHAN PRYNN, TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

THE Egyptian Government has impounded the Royal Viking Sun luxury cruise liner in the Red Sea port of Sharm el-Sheikh as a bargaining counter in its dispute with Cunard over damage to a protected coral reef.

The public prosecution office in Cairo confirmed yesterday that the 37,845-tonne ship will not be allowed to leave Egyptian waters until the company has met its demands for \$23 million (£16 million) compensation.

The ship was crippled last Thursday when she struck a reef near the island of Tiran while negotiating the narrow Gulf of Aqaba, and is now anchored off Sharm el-Sheikh.

Divers from the Egyptian environmental protection agency have reported severe damage to the reef, which forms part of the protected Ras Mohamed marine national park. Cunard is contesting the

cost of the damage, which greatly exceeds previous fines against owners of boats that have damaged the coral. The heaviest fine before the Royal Viking Sun accident was about £14,000.

Bill Spears, a Cunard spokesman, said that lawyers representing the company's insurers would meet Egyptian Government officials at the weekend to sort out the dispute. A senior Cunard source said he believed the company's insurers would be able to negotiate the Egyptian authorities' figure down.

The company is flying its own diver and a coral expert out to assess the damage.

The 500 passengers, including 54 Britons, who were on board the Royal Viking Sun when she hit the reef were flown home at the weekend and have been offered a 14-day cruise on other ships as compensation.

## SATURDAY IN THE TIMES



Forty pages of men's fashion, in the Magazine

Paul Heiney's new column for cooks, in Weekend

Seven days of TV and radio, in Vision

PLUS Weekend Money, Car 96 and 1015 for young Times readers

The Times on the Internet  
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

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Labour move to lure businessmen into classrooms 'dangerously naive'

## Teachers sceptical over Dad's Army school invasion

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

LABOUR moves to attract middle-aged businessmen into teaching were criticised by the profession yesterday for failing to tackle an impending recruitment crisis.

Heads teachers and union leaders doubted that older people would return to the classroom in sufficient numbers to dent the requirement for 50,000 new teachers a year by the end of the century. The "Dad's Army" scheme was given a cool reception at its launch at the annual conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers.

David Blunkett, the Shadow Education Secretary and architect of the scheme, appeared ready to backtrack after his speech to the conference in Glasgow. "The great attraction of the idea is that if it does not work, you have lost

nothing. If it does not work, so be it." He said mid-career transfers from business and industry would go hand-in-hand with incentives for graduates to enter teaching as well as extra pay for proven "super teachers". He told the conference: "It is a nice idea that those who have made their mint somewhere else will want to give their time to teaching. I am assured by some of them they do."

But Professor John Howson, of Oxford Brookes University, who has carried out a series of studies on teacher employment, said the proposals were "dangerously naive". Little more than half of the 800 people aged 45 or more who trained to be teachers in 1993 ended up in the profession. "Recruitment for secondary schools hit the buffers two years ago," Professor Howson

said. "What the profession actually needs is more people in their twenties, but if new graduates find teaching unattractive, what kind of people are we going to get transferring in their forties?"

Mr Blunkett said yesterday that sabbaticals of up to a year for long-serving teachers would be another incentive to enter teaching under a Labour government. The break could be used by teachers after 15 years' service, to spend time in industry or research. Last night it was claimed this could cost at least £300 million a year for supply cover if all 18,000 teachers with 15 years' service opted for a sabbatical.

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the NASUWT,

welcomed the idea of sabbaticals but did not think the "Dad's Army" scheme would work. "Those people will be aware that youngsters of today are very different from what they were 30 years ago. They are less respectful of authority and to be a teacher these days you have to have a lot of vigour. It would be a very stiff challenge for them."

John Dunford, president of the Secondary Heads' Association, said: "We want the best young graduates coming into full-time education in England to fill from 68.1 per cent to 67.6 per cent. However, the actual numbers continued to rise because of the increased size of the teenage population."

Saxon Spence, who chairs the education committee of the Association of County Councils, which produced the survey with the Association of Metropolitan Authorities, said: "The slight decrease in the percentage continuing in education is a worrying trend. All those concerned with education and training will want to keep close watch on the figures in future."

Graham Lane, the AMA's education chairman, said: "Increased costs students have to face are driving some people out of education."

## Fewer pupils choose to stay on after 16

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

THE proportion of young people choosing to continue their studies beyond the statutory school-leaving age of 16 has dropped for the first time in seven years, local authorities reported yesterday.

Successive reductions in the numbers dropping out at 16 came to a halt last year, as the economy started to recover. The latest School Leavers' Destination Survey shows the proportion of 16-year-olds remaining in the education system falling from 83 per cent to 81 per cent.

Improvements in the staying-on rate have been trumpeted by ministers throughout the 1990s, as Britain has closed the gap on rival nations in educational participation. The reversal of the trend will place the Government's education and training targets in greater

jeopardy. The proportion of 16-year-olds going into full-time education in England fell from 68.1 per cent to 67.6 per cent. However, the actual numbers continued to rise because of the increased size of the teenage population."

Mr Dunford said 50,000 new teachers would be needed every year by the turn of the century. The cost of training these people would be far better invested attracting and training graduates to spend a lifetime in teaching, he said.

James Paine, junior Education and Employment Minister, said Mr Blunkett's scheme for a sabbatical for long-serving teachers would cost the country £5 billion if every eligible teacher took a year off. A Labour spokesman, said, however, that sabbaticals would be gradually phased in with industry contributing some of the cost.

Graham Lane, the AMA's education chairman, said: "Increased costs students have to face are driving some people out of education."



Nigel de Gruchy, left, and David Blunkett at the union's conference in Glasgow

## Child abusers beat ban to work as supply staff

By DAVID CHARTER

CHILD abusers banned from teaching are being allowed back into schools by unscrupulous teacher supply agencies, a classroom union said yesterday.

Tight new regulations are required to stop agency teachers on a government blacklist from sidestepping screening checks, delegates at the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers' annual conference, which is taking place in Glasgow, were told.

A survey by the union found that one in four head teachers did not know whether security checks had been made on supply teachers sent to them by agencies. In one instance, a teacher who had been sacked and placed on the Department for Education's blacklist, known as List 99, was sent back to a primary school by an agency. Local authorities are

legally obliged to check the list and criminal records of all teachers, but corner-cutting agencies can avoid the checks if they hire teachers on a self-employed basis.

Martin Johnson, a supply teacher in Lewisham, south-east London, said: "One of our members found someone teaching in a primary school he knew had been forced to resign from another school and put on List 99. The Government had made the decision he was not fit to teach and yet the man was back in the classroom. The majority of people on List 99 have a question mark about abuse of children."

He said that in another case, Manchester education authority had to write to schools warning that an agency representative was himself on List 99. The union called for regulations to require the checks which it claimed were routine.

Delegates also said the growing use of agency teachers would drive down standards.

Mr Johnson said: "Pupils in one school had 13 science teachers on a most, most of them from abroad, with no knowledge of the national curriculum."

Brian Garvey, a member of the union's national executive from Yorkshire, said: "This Government complains about 15,000 unsuitable teachers in schools on the one hand, and yet fully endorses this casualisation of the teaching profession."

This drives down teacher quality by employing anyone from off the streets anywhere in the world. Mr Garvey said."

## Judge says jailing of patient was absurd

An Old Bailey judge said yesterday it was "absurd" for a psychiatrist to refuse to allow a second medical opinion on a suicidal mental patient, which resulted in him being sent to prison instead of hospital.

Sydney McBride, 49, who has a history of severe depression, had tried to burn himself to death and had admitted arson. He was sentenced to four years. Judge Laugland, QC, told him: "I very much regret that I cannot order a disposal which would more closely address your need for treatment but because of the attitude of a doctor I am unable to do so." Dr David Someki surprised the probation service and defence lawyers by the move.

## Bridgewater trial doubts

A second juror in the Carl Bridgewater trial said yesterday that she believed the four men convicted of the killing were innocent. Lucinda Graham is to support the campaign to have the case sent back to the Court of Appeal. Miss Graham, the youngest member of the jury in 1979, said she had doubts from the start. Michael Hickey, his cousin Vincent Hickey and James Robinson were convicted largely on a confession by Patrick Molloy.

## Leeds killing denied

A young man arrested for the murder last weekend of a pensioner who was attacked in his car as he stopped to ask directions, denied in court yesterday that he was the killer. Clive Jones, 25, was arrested on Tuesday in connection with the death last Saturday of Stevan Popovic, 74, who was prominent in the Serb community in the Chapeltown district of Leeds. Mr Jones, who lives in Gipton, West Yorkshire, was remanded in custody for a week.

## Nursing staff arrested

A female nurse and a male nursing auxiliary have been arrested in connection with "serious allegations" after an internal inquiry at Bolton General Hospital. John Pettigrew, director of nursing, said: "The allegations relate to the care of three male patients on one of the psychiatric wards." The arrests come 18 months after a separate inquiry into the abuse of psychiatric patients resulted in seven nurses being suspended and three later sacked.

## Canterbury tails off

Canterbury Cathedral fell in popularity in the year it introduced admission charges. The number of visitors fell to 1.9 million, down from 2.25 million the year before. A charge of £2 for adults and £1 for children, the unemployed and pensioners was introduced last June. Officials said the hot summer, parking problems and French strikes affected the number, which equalled that of visitors to St Paul's in London.

## Suspect in Philippines

The former lodger of a missing Essex businessman and his wife has been arrested in the Philippines. Geoffrey Paston was arrested at a nightclub he runs in the city of Tacloban by immigration officials, accompanied by two officers from Essex Police. Mr Paston is wanted for questioning about the disappearance of David Sims, 31, from Southend, and China Rose, 31, his Filipina wife, who have not been seen since the early months of 1993.

## City wins £15m grant

The Arts Council of England awarded a National Lottery grant of £15 million towards the upgrading of the Victoria Concert Hall and the Regent Theatre in Stoke-on-Trent. The improvements are part of the council's plan to create a "cultural quarter" in the city, which will include a touring venue for ballet, drama, opera and music theatre. Seventy-four grants totalling £28.16 million were distributed yesterday.

## First taste of summer

The first English strawberries of the summer of 1996 are on their way to the shops this weekend, earlier than ever before. Despite the late spring, the latest improvements in growing techniques have urged the crop forward by at least ten days. Vernon Emery, of Warsash, Hampshire, gave his plants 15 minutes of artificial light each hour from 11pm until 7am from mid-January, triggering the growth that produces earlier and larger fruit.

## Mother rescues children

A mother plucked her two children and their friend to safety after driving onto a rail crossing as two trains approached from opposite directions. Kim Turner, 32, from Leconfield, East Yorkshire, had edged onto Scarborough crossing near Beverley although warning lights were flashing. She grabbed the children and leapt from the car, which was badly damaged as it was hit by one of the Sprinter trains.

## Oasis cut concert

Extra police were called in yesterday after the rock band Oasis walked out abruptly during a concert in Canada, sparking fears of a riot by thousands of angry fans. The concert had just begun at the Coliseum in Vancouver when the band suddenly stopped playing and left the stage, apparently because someone had thrown a shoe onstage. Sergeant Bob Chapman of the city police said: There were no reports of injuries.

## Labour 'at centre'

Continued from page 1  
the real challenges. A modern party must be in the centre, speaking for the mainstream majority."

In the past Mr Blair has presented new Labour as being in the centre-left, so his reference to the centre is a further step in the repositioning of the party, in line with his claims that Labour is the party of One Nation.

Mr Blair argued that the role of a modern centre and centre-left government is to equip people and business for change, to enable and empower, not to direct and control. A government of the radical centre, offering real and dynamic change but doing it from a centre-ground position, taking people with us, recognising that unless we combine change with equity, change will not come.

Mr Blair backed his claim both by referring to changes in the structure of the Labour Party itself and in its policies, mentioning in particular its intention to keep public spending under tight control while making a top priority of lowering tax at the bottom end of the scale.

He argued that while the values and priorities of the

main parties would continue to differ, they would draw from the same "pot of policy prescriptions". Tax reform, he said, could be a message of both Left and Right, as could welfare reform.

In his speech, Mr Blair emphasised that it was absurd to imagine that for Britain, "there is a choice between the relationship with Europe and that with America. On the contrary, the real value to the US of the British role in Europe lies in the influence we can and will exert to help keep Europe firmly linked to the US in defence, outward-looking, open to trade and investment, and open also to the inclusion of the new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe".

He spoke of his strong belief in free-trade policies, calling for further action to deal with barriers to trade and investment across the Atlantic.

The Labour leader reinforced his claims to a new approach by saying that new Labour accepted many of the changes brought in the 1980s under Conservative governments which were needed to improve competitiveness and encourage enterprise.

Irritated Tories, page 9

## Social worker backtracks on drugs

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

THE social work director who caused a storm of protest by describing Ecstasy as safer than aspirin yesterday declared drug misuse "illegal and unsafe".

Mary Hartnoll's original comments were described as "unwise" by senior officials at Glasgow City Council yesterday. The council has called an emergency meeting.

Miss Hartnoll, 55, caused outrage among drug rehabilitation workers with an internal memo to the chief executive of the council describing Ecstasy as "relatively safe". She also said in the memo that the risk of dying from a normal dose of aspirin was "very much greater" than that of dying from Ecstasy.

She had been responding to a hardline approach to drugs by the council's licensing board, and her opinions appeared to contradict the work

being done by the board. Yesterday, however, Miss Hartnoll said: "I would never condone the taking of Ecstasy or any illegal drug."

The council moved to limit the damage to its image by declaring its commitment to combat the drugs threat in the city. Drug abuse claims the lives of about 100 young people in Glasgow every year.

Robert Gould, leader of the council, said: "Ecstasy is not a safe drug." He said, however, that he would not be calling for Miss Hartnoll's resignation and that she retained the confidence of the council.

Mr Gould said he had sympathy for views of the father of Leah Betts, the teenager who died after taking Ecstasy. Paul Betts said that Miss Hartnoll's remarks were "totally irresponsible".

Mr Gould said yesterday:

"If I were Leah Betts's father or mother I would probably be talking the same way but if you look at the detail of what is being said, Mary Hartnoll is probably not far off the mark."

The deputy leader of the Council, Gordon MacDiarmid, said Miss Hartnoll's statement was "very irresponsible in relation to public

perception but it was not an irresponsible statement to make in an internal memo" given its context and its audience.

Miss Hartnoll, who took up her £76,776 a year council post recently, said: "I am surprised and disappointed that one sentence in an internal memo has been so widely misinterpreted and taken out of context."

The social work department, under my leadership, has played a full and active part in the Greater Glasgow Drugs Action Team, whose first priority is to turn the tide of public opinion against illicit drug-taking and to make it socially unacceptable, an aim I fully endorse."

She added later: "My view is that there is no such thing as a safe drug, but the risk of death from Ecstasy perhaps not that high, although there are a lot of other health risks involved."



Hartnoll: started her £76,000 post recently

"If I were Leah Betts's father or mother I would probably be talking the same way but if you look at the detail of what is being said, Mary Hartnoll is probably not far off the mark."

The deputy leader of the Council, Gordon MacDiarmid, said Miss Hartnoll's statement was "very irresponsible in relation to public

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Costs grow over plan to curb BSE

## Cattle slaughter may be doubled to 30,000 a week

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

PLANS to kill up to 30,000 cattle a week are to be announced by the Government next week in the first stage of a rescue package for the beef industry, it emerged yesterday. That is double the number initially thought necessary under last week's Luxembourg agreement with the European Union to keep all cattle older than 30 months out of the food chain.

Investigation by the Ministry of Agriculture and the National Farmers' Union has revealed that the number of steers and heifers, prime beef cattle, which are older than 30 months is much higher than was thought. This means the Government will not be able to limit the destruction to the 15,000 normally slaughtered every week at the end of their productive life.

Thousands of prime cattle just over 30 months old will also have to be destroyed because they cannot now be used for food. Younger animals are extremely unlikely to be infected with BSE, the "mad cow" disease.

Richard Macdonald, the NFU's director-general-designate, said: "It is impossible to

determine exactly how many cattle fall into what we are calling this 30-plus category, but it could be around 250,000 a year — far more than we thought."

These animals include cattle reared for export which are slaughtered at a later age to satisfy foreign demand for heavier carcasses. Some of the best beef also comes from slow-maturing breeds fed almost entirely on grass and often killed as late as 36 months. Meat from these animals is now banned if they are older than 30 months.

Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, could announce the cull next Tuesday, according to Whitehall sources, and the first cattle could be slaughtered before the end of the month.

Farmers say the Ministry of Agriculture has made problems worse by using tooth development as the test of cattle age. Any animal showing more than one pair of incisor teeth is deemed to be older than 30 months, but farmers say a second set of incisors often appears in heifers younger than that. Proving an animal's real age can be difficult because until very recently there was no systematic recording of the birth dates of heifers. The Ministry says it is trying to come up with a solution.

The NFU has told the

ministry that it calculates there is now a backlog of up to 100,000 old cows and a further 100,000 younger animals more than 30 months old awaiting slaughter on farms. Clearing this backlog could mean destroying as many as 30,000 animals a week for up to six months.

Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture, could announce the cull next Tuesday, according to Whitehall sources, and the first cattle could be slaughtered before the end of the month.

Details of the plan are still being finalised. These include levels of compensation and the logistics — there is no shortage of slaughter capacity but the nine licensed livestock incinerators cannot handle more than 3,000 whole carcasses a week. One idea under discussion is that the heads, backsides and offal would be incinerated. The rest of the carcasses would be boiled down by rendering plants which specialise in processing animal waste. The residue could then be incinerated or buried in special landfill sites.

Mr Macdonald said: "The logistics of the operation are a

An animal rights activist at the gate of the Aalten slaughterhouse, where the Netherlands calf cull began

huge problem. There will be a tremendous catch-up job. Some sort of queuing or rationing system may have to be introduced to allow for a phased destruction of the animals."

The NFU said it was pressuring for extra compensation for farmers who would lose prime beef cattle. Under the Luxembourg deal, farmers would get

an average of about £480 per animal, a figure based on the market rate for an old and barren cow. Prime beef animals can be worth more than £1,000 each.

Extra compensation would create difficulties for the Treasury. The EU agreed last week to pay 70 per cent of compensation at a rate of £480 an animal, but it is understood

that any compensation above that rate would have to come entirely out of the Government's pocket.

In addition to the destruction of animals over 30 months old, the Government is also committed to produce proposals by the end of this month for a more selective cull of cattle and/or herds identified as being at the most risk of

developing BSE. There is no indication yet how many animals this might involve.

The NFU is considering a legal challenge to the EU's worldwide ban on £600 million, on the ground that it is disproportionate to the scientific evidence, but will make no legal move for three weeks to give the EU more time to review the ban.

## Protests greet cull of calves in Holland

ANIMAL rights activists shouted "murderers" yesterday at the beginning of the mass destruction of 64,000 British calves in the Netherlands.

Escorted by police vehicles, four trucks transported the first load to the Kropweld-Schiphol slaughterhouse in Aalten, where up to 2,000 a day will be killed for up to six weeks. Animal rights and vegetarian groups laid wreaths against the walls.

The drastic mass slaughter was announced last month by the Dutch Agriculture Ministry, after British scientists said there was a possible link between mad cow disease and deaths from the human equivalent, Creutzfeldt-Jakob Syndrome.

In France, a government investigation reported six cases of fraud over the origin of beef imported into France in the last two weeks. In two cases out of 2,000 checked, British meat imported before a French ban was on sale labelled as French meat. Four others involved Dutch and German meat which was sold as French, said junior finance minister Yves Galland, in a statement on the results of his ministry's investigation. Legal proceedings had been launched in all six cases, he said.

France was the first country to suspend imports of British beef, on March 21.

**Psychological Society**

## Degree grading 'biased and open to abuse'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

UNIVERSITY examiners are assessing students in a way that is "unreliable, inconsistent, biased and open to frequent abuse", the president of the British Psychological Society said yesterday.

Professor Stephen Newstead said only a radical overhaul would prevent the degree system falling into disrepute. One essay given to 14 different examiners received marks ranging from a First to a borderline Lower Second or Third-class degree.

Professor Newstead, of Plymouth University, said examiners were influenced by their personal like or dislike of students whose work they were marking. But his experiment had shown that even without knowing the candidate, the marks awarded for the same piece of work could differ by 70 per cent.

National examinations were needed as part of all university degrees to halt the erosion of faith in institutions that produce too many good results, Professor Newstead said. He feared Britain could follow the United States, where many qualifications are regarded with scepticism by employers and academics.

"Students don't always get the degree they deserve," he said at the society's annual conference in Brighton. "The system is undermined if degrees don't mean the same thing in different institutions. The reputation of British higher education is potentially undermined." Professor Newstead doubted that a First

Class degree meant the same now as it did 10 or 20 years ago. "In the past 15 years there has been an inexorable increase in the proportion of Firsts from 6 per cent to 10 per cent. It could be that students are getting better, or that teaching methods have improved to such an extent that students are performing much better than their counterparts in the past. But even if this is the case, it does not explain why the proportion of good degrees has gone up so much at a time when the participation rate has increased so dramatically."

About 30 per cent of 18-year-olds enter higher education, compared with only 5 per cent some 20 years ago. "It is difficult to believe that the proportion of these modern students who merit a good degree is so much higher than the proportion of their more highly selected predecessors."

There are wide variations in the number of good degrees awarded in different disciplines, with philosophy, history, sociology and English students getting better awards than accountancy, mathematics, education and law. Professor Newstead said there was also evidence of sex bias in marking, with women tending to get fewer Firsts and Thirds than men, particularly at Oxford and Cambridge.

Professor Newstead called for academics to be banned from assessing projects which they have supervised, as already happens with PhD theses.

## Computers 'strike fear into young'

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

YOUNG computer-users, often presumed by their parents to have been born to wander cyberspace, are more intimidated by new technology than older generations, researchers have found.

According to a study by Strathclyde University, those in their thirties are eager to learn computer skills and feel confident about their ability.

Despite being brought up on computers, many young people can feel fearful at the thought of using them. Some even develop a condition known in America as "computer phobia", experiencing dizziness and nausea when surrounded by them and a wish to smash the machine.

Nicholas Bozonelos, a psychologist, told the British Psychological Society conference that he had compared a group brought up in the 1970s — 165 trainees in management, aged from 30 to 43 — with a group brought

up in the computer-dominated 1980s — 47 undergraduates aged from 18 to 23.

Younger people were 95 per cent more likely to be apprehensive about computers. Women were twice as likely to worry about computers as men. A larger experiment involving 440 people shows similar initial findings.

"The findings are astonishing. If they are substantiated, it suggests that the younger generation may avoid computers, may underperform and may even sabotage new computers in the workplace," Mr Bozonelos said.

One theory is that younger people are overwhelmed by the amount of computer technology available and fear they will have to learn all of it to get through life. The young also associate computers with mathematics, which they found difficult at school.

People in their thirties and forties know they only had to learn a few computer applications to help them at work.



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greet cul-  
of calves  
in Holland

THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 12 1996

Union accuses Barclays of putting workers at risk by not revealing threat from blackmailer

HOME NEWS 5



The first bombs, sent in 1994, were concealed in Christmas wrapping paper and video boxes



## Cunning criminal driven by a powerful grudge

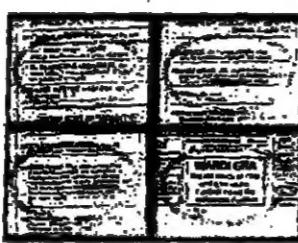
BY STEWART TENDLER

THE Barclays bomber is a cunning criminal with an engineering background who works alone and is driven by a powerful grudge against the bank or anyone connected with it, psychological profilers have told police.

Anti-terrorist detectives have consulted psychologists and bomb experts to build up a picture of the attacker which shows that he may have been a customer or worked for the bank and Barclaycard at one stage. He could still do so.

Some of the bombs were sent to the homes of bank officials, suggesting that he has had access to the bank's computer files. His obsession with Barclays is so strong that he has even attacked firms that supply the bank or have links with Barclaycard.

A Yard source said yesterday: "He is a loner with a clear specific grudge who possibly lives in London. He is a combination of the erratic and



the careful planner. He will go for long periods doing nothing which shows he is prepared to wait."

Experts think the bomber designed the bombs himself, which suggests a military or engineering background. He also built wooden boxes to hold some bombs. One investigator said yesterday: "The things are well engineered. There is skill in how they have been put together."

Yard officers have consulted FBI experts involved in the hunt for the Unabomber. A man was arrested by American police last week in connection with a 17-year campaign

## Police comb bank records for clue to parcel bomber

BY PATRICIA TEHAN  
AND STEWART TENDLER

LISTS of disgruntled customers and former staff were being checked by police last night in the search for the Barclays bomber.

The bank confirmed it had handed over lists of aggrieved clients, including failed businessmen who blame the collapse of their firms on the bank. Detectives believe the bomber could be a businessman with a military or engineering background, or a bank employee who was sacked or made redundant.

The police and bank have placed newspaper advertisements appealing for the bomber to get in contact. This month he wrote to the *Daily Mail* threatening more attacks and claimed he was part of a group of disaffected bank victims.

In the past 16 months the bomber, who calls himself Mardi Gras, has made threats and sent or planted about 25 home-made devices aimed at Barclays and Barclaycard. Three have gone off, and one clerk suffered minor injuries.

A spokesman for the bank said: "We are co-operating with police and helping them in any way we can. I am sure people will understand it is important this man is caught. We have talked to the police about a number of possible lines of inquiry."

The bank was accused by unions yesterday of putting

### 14 MONTHS OF ATTACKS

December 5, 1994: Bank clerk injured by letter bomb at Hampstead High Street. Five more bombs sent same day to other west London branches. Addressed with a label saying *Welcome to the Mardi Gras Experience*. Another appeal put out for the bomber to get in contact.

December 6: Bomber wrote to Barclaycard headquarters in Northampton with first demand for money. Bank was told to communicate through the personal columns of *The Daily Telegraph* using the codename Mardi Gras. He always responded with untraceable letters.

May 1995: Another blackmail demand as devices were sent to people or companies working for Barclaycard and Barclays.

June 19: Barclaycard security official received device made with shotgun cartridge.

July: Some devices posted

staff at risk. Rob MacGregor, assistant secretary of Bifu, condemned senior management for failing to warn staff that the bank had become a target.

He questioned the bank's decision to follow police guidelines and issue general instructions about safety procedures rather than specific

to home addresses and others put through the letterboxes of companies in an arc south of London from Kent to Surrey including a greengrocer and a merchant builder. Another appeal put out for the bomber to get in contact.

August: Another written demand from the bomber. September: Devices left in telephone boxes near Barclays branches in west London. One device left in a case outside a branch at Hayes was thrown into the road and exploded as car drove over it.

January: More devices left outside branches including one in Ealing, west London. Others planted in south London. In the past two months, another advertisement has been placed by the bank seeking contact with bomber, who threatened more attacks.

warnings. He said the bank should have taken steps to make staff more aware of the possible risk. "There is being subtle and there is being nonexistent, and that is what they have been," Mr MacGregor said.

He said Barclays had been "hiding behind the police. We have an employer that knows

it has enemies. Banks are highly unpopular and they are an easy target."

Andrew Buxton, the bank's chairman, said staff had received "regular warnings about letter bombs and raids and keeping vigilant generally. You have to appreciate that this is against the background of a business that has a raid of some sort once a week, and a raid that might involve firearms perhaps once a fortnight. So our staff generally are extremely vigilant, and we do send out regular warnings."

"The warnings we have sent out have covered everything, and we have wanted to work with the police and keep the particular circumstances of this campaign silent. Looking back at the warnings we have given, I think actually they have been quite explicit."

Mike Pitcher, director of operations at Barclays, said the bank had not specifically mentioned the bomber because it had been "guided by the police. They are the experts. The police wanted to keep the number of people who knew about this to an absolute minimum because they thought it would give the perpetrator time to trip himself up."

Mr Pitcher said the bank had sent out at least 12 warnings to staff since the bombing campaign started in December 1994. These had provided information about the nature of devices and



Staff at Barclays branches were not told of the blackmailer but were given warnings on security

terday that they had no strong leads on the identity of the blackmailer. The name Mardi Gras was printed on the cover of the video boxes containing the first bombs sent in 1994. Many of the bombs have been made with shotgun cartridges which explode when the box containing them is opened.

Senior officers admitted yes-

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Skoda outshines German giants

## British left standing by Japanese in car satisfaction survey

By KEVIN EASON, MOTORING EDITOR

CARS produced by traditional British manufacturers such as Ford and Vauxhall are rated among the worst in an authoritative survey on customer satisfaction launched yesterday. Rover fares slightly better in the J.D. Power league table, in which Skoda appears ahead of BMW and Mercedes.

The survey, which is regarded as the motorists' bible in America, checked the experiences of more than 14,000 owners of L-registered cars in Britain. The result is a comprehensive survey of what motorists think of their cars and dealers. Carmakers are sceptical, however, pointing out that the research took place three years ago.

Skoda, which has been

transformed by Volkswagen, its new owner, will no doubt eschew this point of view after scoring highest of the Europeans in a league table dominated by Japanese manufacturers.

Honda is rated as the best overall manufacturer, followed by Toyota, Mazda, Subaru, Daihatsu and Mitsubishi. The survey is a near disaster for British manufacturers: Power executives, while refusing to disclose the full list of 32 makes, confirmed that the big volume makers are "in the bottom third".

Of 72 models featured in the list, the highest placed British-made cars are Japanese — the Toyota Corolla made in Derryshire, the Honda Accord

from Wiltshire and the Nissan Micra and Primera models from Wearside.

The Rover 600 is the best-placed "traditional" British car, in 30th position, followed by the Jaguar XJ6 in 38th. Britain's best-selling car, the Ford Escort, is third from the bottom. Of the ten worst cars in the league table, six are Vauxhalls and two are Fords.

J.D. Power III, the company founder and president, said: "It is up to the manufacturers to take this information away with them and to use it to make major gains in their product quality."

"The Japanese led the way in the US but the domestic manufacturers changed their ways. When we started in 1985, US manufacturers would face 170 to 180 faults for every 100 vehicles they made. Now that figure is down to 50. Pressure from consumers helped them change their ways."

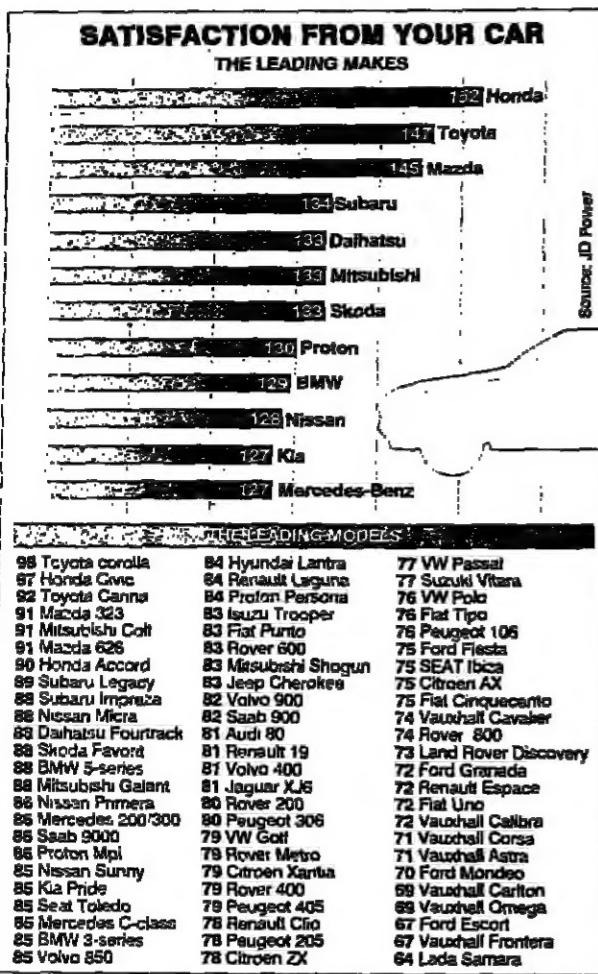
The survey shows 63 per cent of British owners are "very satisfied" with their cars compared with 77 per cent of owners in a similar survey in America.

Dealers fared much worse, with only 41 per cent of motorists being satisfied with the service they receive in the showroom and workshop. However, Dave Sargent, Power's director of European operations, said: "Poor product quality gives dealers a much harder task."

Roger King, public affairs director for the Society of Motor Manufacturers and Traders, said: "This survey is judging cars from three years ago, since when the industry has made enormous strides."

"The results do not explain why the Ford Mondeo, for example, is on the preferred list in almost every other survey but scores badly in this one."

The answer, according to Power researchers, might be because the volume manufacturers sell to tougher customers, the fleet buyers, while Japanese manufacturers tend to sell more to private buyers.



Nirlev Sohal, daughter of VC winner Parkash Singh, visiting the exhibition yesterday with her husband Kanwal

## Commonwealth heroes honoured

By JOHN YOUNG

NOTHING could stop Parkash Singh coming to the rescue of comrades under fire. Now his hard-won Victoria Cross is one of the most treasured items in an exhibition honouring millions of Commonwealth volunteers who came to Britain's aid in wartime.

On January 6, 1943, Sergeant Singh was serving with the 5/8 Punjab Regiment, as part of the 14th Indian Division in the Arakan region of Burma, when the Japanese opened fire on two disabled Bren-gun carriers. He drove his own carrier out and successfully rescued the crews.

Two weeks later, on January 19, he carried out an almost identical rescue of two other crews. He connected a chain to a third carrier, containing two wounded men,

A world record was set yesterday when decorations won by Major General Orde Wingate, right, leader of the Chindits in Burma, were sold for £56,500. The medals and memorabilia included his triple Distinguished Service Order, Colt revolver, Royal Artillery captain's tunics and a battered pith helmet. The collection was bought by an anonymous British collector at Sotheby's in Billingshurst, West Sussex, setting a record for non-Victoria Cross gallantry medals.

and towed it to safety under heavy anti-tank and machine-grenade fire. The Viceroy, Lord Linlithgow, presented Sergeant Singh's Victoria Cross six months later. After a

career in the Army he reached the rank of major and died in retirement, but his daughters, Nirlev and Jyoti, and granddaughter Mallika have been among visitors to the exhibi-

tion at the Imperial War Museum. Field Marshal Lord Bramall, the former chief of staff, said at the opening that without the immense achievements of the Indian forces the war in Asia might never have been won.

In later life, when Mr Singh returned to the Punjab, he was known to everyone as VC, his daughters recalled. Nirlev lives in north-west London with her husband, Kanwal Sohal, a solicitor, and Mallika, their eight-year-old daughter.

The exhibition honours Commonwealth exploits in two world wars and in Korea. On a wall are the words of David Lloyd George after the First World War: "The causes of the war were unknown in India; its theatre in Europe remote. Yet India stood by its allegiance heart and soul from the first call to arms."

button sprouts 99p for 907g, strawberry and vanilla New York cheesecake £1.99. Marks & Spencer: New Zealand lamb rib chops £7.49 a kg, Bakewell tarts 85p for two, croissants 99p for eight.

Morrisons: mini Melton Mowbray pork pies £1.49 for six, oysters 29p each, light coleslaw 39p for 227g.

Sainsbury: topside, silverside or top rump with added basting fat £4.39 a kg, British crumbed ham 59p a 4lb, New Zealand extra mature cheddar £2.19 a lb, grapefruit 29p each.

Sainsbury: premium pork sausages £1.09 for 454g, mature blue Stilton £1.67 a lb, oranges £1.19 for eight.

Somerfield: fresh boneless leg of pork £2.99 a kg, tiger prawns £1.69 for 113g, cherry tomatoes 99p a lb.

Tesco: pork spare rib chops £2.79 a kg, braising steak £3.29 a kg, medium free-range eggs £1.41 for 12, frozen raspberry pavlova £1.79.

Waitrose: Aberdeen Angus sirloin steak £5.99 a lb, Royal Gala apples 49p a lb, new potatoes £1.29 for 2.5kg.

Basics put 5.6% more on typical food bill

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE cost of feeding a typical family has risen by 5.6 per cent in the past 12 months, according to research by the consultants Reward. Steve Flather, of Reward, says that the rise can be attributed to increases in the price of staple foods, such as potatoes, apples and eggs.

Announced promotions

include:

Asda: fresh beef sirloin steak £7.25 a kg, broccoli 59p a lb, strawberries 69p for 227g.

Budgens: fresh Cumberland pork sausages 99p for 454g.

Filippo Berio extra-virgin olive oil £1.99 for 250ml, English Ida Red apples 65p a kg.

Co-op: fresh Scottish salmon steaks £1.99 for 226g, cheeseboard selection tray £3.99 for 520g, pure orange juice £1.79 for 3 litre.

Harrods: smoked salmon delice £2.95, Serrano ham £3.55 for 100g, kippers £3.10 a kg, mixed Dutch peppers £1.95 for four.

Iceland: breaded nuggets £3.79 for 50, part-boned chick-

en breasts £3.99 for 1.5kg.

### WEEKEND SHOPPING

butter sprouts 99p for 907g, strawberry and vanilla New York cheesecake £1.99.

Marks & Spencer: New Zealand lamb rib chops £7.49 a kg, Bakewell tarts 85p for two, croissants 99p for eight.

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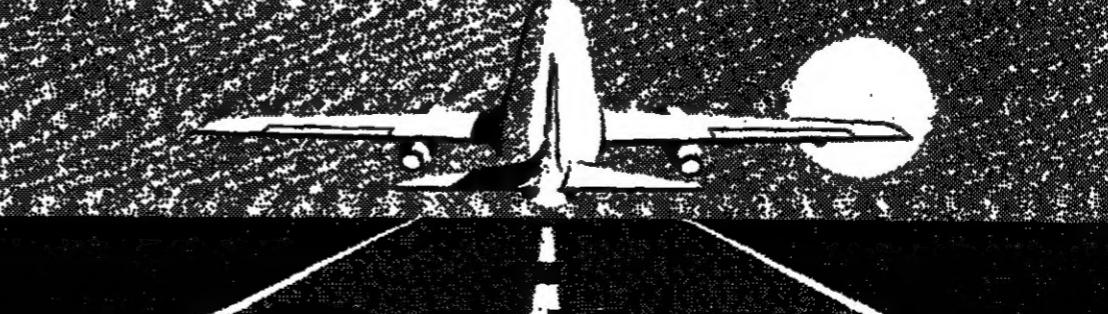
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THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 12 1996

## Twins help search for cause of disorder

By NIGEL HAWKES

**OSTEOARTHRITIS**, the commonest cause of joint pain, is partly inherited, a three-year study has shown.

Until now the disease had been attributed to injuries and general wear and tear. But a research team from St Thomas's Hospital in London and the Institute of Molecular Medicine in Oxford reports in the *British Medical Journal* that there is a strong genetic component.

The team compared the incidence of the disease in 250 pairs of identical and non-identical twins, and showed that between 39 and 65 per cent of the cases of osteoarthritis were attributable to genetic factors. The next target is to find the gene that predisposes towards the disease, to enable screening.



Identical twins Joan Robbins, left, and Joyce Strutis, whose condition was examined by the researchers

## Scottish doctors may be authorised to allow death

By GILLIAN BOWDITCH

DOCTORS in Scotland who stop treating coma patients regarded as incapable of recovery, allowing them to die, will not face criminal prosecution for murder or culpable homicide, the Lord Advocate said yesterday.

The statement from the Lord Advocate, Lord Mackay of Drumadorn, was made in the Court of Session in Edinburgh yesterday as the case of

Janet Johnston, 53, reached the final stages of a legal hearing that has lasted eight months.

Mrs Johnston, who lived in Alton, Strathclyde, has been in a persistent vegetative state in Law Hospital, Carlisle, for four years after she took an overdose of her asthma medication. She is fed by nasal tube and breathes on her own and is not on a life-support machine.

Doctors said she had suf-

fered two seizures, causing brain damage. Since then she has been kept alive by intensive nursing. She opens her eyes occasionally but has not reacted to stimuli.

The case has been brought by the hospital, which is arguing that doctors should be allowed to let Mrs Johnston die peacefully, with dignity and in the least possible distress. It has the backing of Mrs Johnston's family.

The Lord Advocate has

made clear that for exemption from prosecution to be secured, the Court of Session would have to authorise the death of a patient.

Yesterday, Mrs Johnston's case was adjourned for the last time. A final decision on whether doctors can terminate treatment will be made by Lord Cameron of Lochbroom later this month.

The chief executive of Law Hospital NHS Trust, Ken Thomson, who was in court to

hear the Lord Advocate's statement, said afterwards that he very much welcomed it.

Mrs Johnston's husband Peter welcomed the court ruling on immunity from prosecution. He said yesterday: "The staff at Law Hospital have done a lot for Janet. I don't want them to get into trouble if they stop feeding her."

"I just want my wife to die in peace and with dignity. Thank God Janet will soon be at rest."

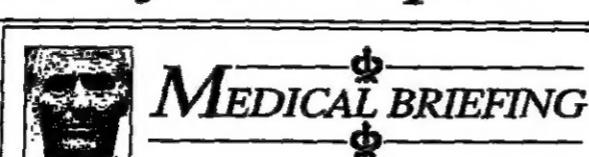
## Comedian continues to smile through ten years of pain

LEE HURST, the comedian who co-stars in the BBC quiz *They Think It's All Over*, has disclosed that for ten years he has suffered from ankylosing spondylitis.

This inflammatory rheumatic disorder principally affects the joints between the vertebrae of the spine and the joints between the spine and the pelvis. It can also involve the peripheral joints, particularly when the victims are women or children.

Hurst is a typical sufferer from ankylosing spondylitis in that he is male and was between the ages of 20 and 40 when the disease first struck. It attacks 1 per cent of the general population, but 20 per cent of those who have a particular tissue type and carry the histocompatibility antigen HLA-B27. This characteristic can be inherited.

As the arthritis in the spine develops, problems are not caused only by the pain from the inflamed joints but by an increasingly stiff back, which



Dr Thomas Stuttaford

can become so extreme that the spine becomes fused. The back pain is worst in the mornings. Treatment with anti-inflammatory drugs is intended to stop the patient adopting a permanent stoop.

Patients may develop inflammation within the eye, inflammation of the covering of the heart, aortic valvular heart disease and lung complications. Stiffening of the joints of the chest does not by itself usually cause breathlessness but, as breathing is restricted, the lungs often become infected, requiring treatment with antibiotics.

Patients who are HLA-B27 positive have another grave

disadvantage. They are liable to develop Reiter's syndrome if they catch non-specific urethritis from a sexual partner, or from some forms of dysentery. Reiter's syndrome also causes severe arthritis and inflammation of the eyes and of the skin of the palms and soles.

Mr Hurst is unmarried and is reported in his interview to have referred to girlfriends. Reiter's is a forceful argument for monogamy. As a colleague used to tell patients who were found to be HLA-B27 positive: "Some men are born to prefer monogamy — others have it thrust upon them. You belong to the latter group."

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HOME NEWS 7

Prisoners volunteer for experiment

## Vitamins may wean young offenders from diet of crime

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT

YOUNG offenders are to be given vitamin pills in a pilot project aimed at changing their anti-social behaviour. More than a hundred volunteers will take part in a six-month experiment at Aylesbury young-offender institution. It is hoped the project will show that a change of diet can reduce aggression.

The experiment, which begins next month, follows research in the United States that suggested links between offenders' behaviour and deficiencies in vitamins and minerals.

Volunteers will be given supplements containing zinc, fatty acids and other nutrients for comparison with a similar group of inmates who will receive dummy pills. The trial will cost more than £100,000.

Bernard Gesch, who will run the project, said yesterday: "Too many people are like jet fighters — refuelling on the move. They grab what they can and that tends to be snacks. Snack food is notoriously low in nutritional value." Mr Gesch, a former probation officer who now runs Natural Justice, a charity based in Ulverston, Cumbria, said: "If we can improve a

person's health by nutritional supplements this will give us a much better chance at rehabilitating the offender."

By the end of the trial Mr Gesch expects to be able to compare the disciplinary records of the two groups, their wellbeing and their mental state. The project is being funded by a number of charities and is the first of its kind to be conducted in a British jail.

A number of studies in the United States have indicated that prisoners suffered from serious deficiencies in vitamins C and B1 and zinc.

Some studies have suggested that a lack of zinc could be linked with impaired control and depression. Derek Bryce-Smith, emeritus professor of chemistry at Reading University, said that work done with juveniles in Cumbria had found zinc deficiencies.

Mr Bryce-Smith said: "Many were depressed and tried to deal with that by seeking excitement, often through crime. Zinc supplements helped them feel better and prevented them doing daft things."

He stressed, however, that supplements were not a panacea for criminal behaviour. "I am not saying that the whole problem of crime can be resolved by one little zinc pill."

each day but a range of vitamins and minerals, including zinc, could change behaviour for the better."

There has been very little research in Britain on links between diet and behaviour, although a number of people in the criminal justice system believe changes in diet can lead to changes in mental state, particularly among hyper-active children.

Historically, diet has been used as an instrument of control in the prison system. In Victorian times diets were linked to a prisoner's behaviour and how much of their sentence had been served.

The pilot project was given a cautious welcome by a leading penal reform group yesterday. Stephen Shaw of the Prison Reform Trust said: "Some research has been done in the United States which maintains there is a link between fast foods and criminal behaviour. I think this could be a useful addition to our knowledge."

Dr Thomas Stuttaford, who writes for *The Times*, said a zinc deficiency could lead to a lack of self-control. "There is slim evidence that nutritional deficiencies can be related to bad behaviour in children but the evidence is pretty scant," he said.

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Meteorite carried helium stowaways

## Crater find suggests building blocks of life came from space

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

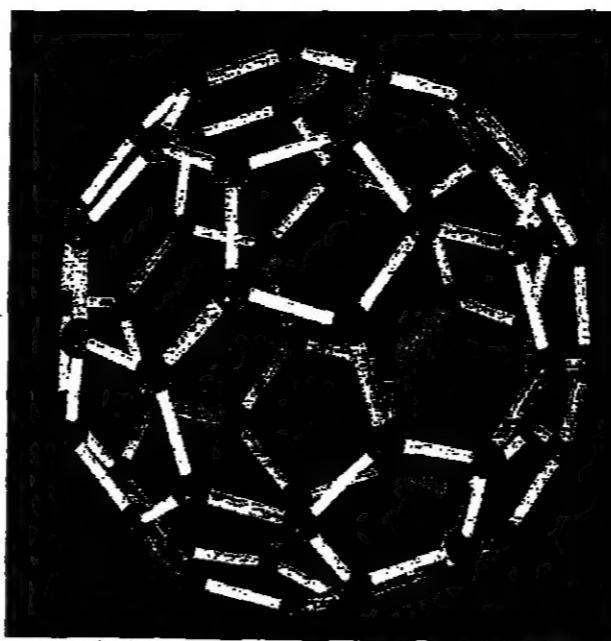
CARBON found in a huge crater in Canada made by a meteorite nearly two billion years ago strengthens the idea that the chemicals of life arrived on Earth from outer space. American scientists have found carbon molecules in the crater debris near Sudbury, Ontario, and have shown that they survived the fiery impact of an object the size of Mount Everest hitting the Earth.

The team from the University of Rochester, New York State, and the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in San Diego, California, report in *Science* magazine that the carbon was in the form of "buckyballs", also known as fullerenes — football-shaped molecules made up of 60 carbon atoms — and that trapped within them were atoms of helium. The helium

stowaways were a mixture of isotopes — different forms of the element — in a ratio that is not found on Earth, but is found in meteorites. This is strong evidence that the helium and the carbon in which it was encased originated outside the solar system.

The team measured the ratio of two helium isotopes, helium-3 and helium-4, and found that it was ten times higher than the ratio found in helium from the Earth's mantle. The ratio of the helium inside the buckyballs is what we typically find in meteorites," says Professor Robert Poreda of the University of Rochester. "It's much higher than the ratio found anywhere on Earth."

"Our results show clearly that this helium and these buckyballs are of extraterrestrial origin. If a meteorite or a



"Buckyballs" were found to contain helium atoms which had originated outside our solar system

evidence backs the idea that it came from outer space, after being created in cool stars known as red giants."

"I have to admit that I was a very strong opponent of this view," says Dr Jeffrey Bada of Scripps, one of the authors. "I didn't think it would be a viable way to get organics on the Earth because I believed, as most people did, that these events were just too energetic for the stuff to survive. Now, all of a sudden, I have a different view."

The buckyballs were found in the Sudbury crater two

years ago, but at the time Dr Bada believed them to have been formed in the impact. He has changed his mind because of studies of the helium inside them, using a mass spectrometer.

Buckyballs are exotic molecules of carbon, first identified in 1985 by a team that included Professor Harold Kroto of Sussex University.

They were named Buckminsterfullerene because their structure resembles that of the geodesic domes designed by the late American engineer Buckminster Fuller.

## Gene discovery provides clue to causes of ageing

By NIGEL HAWKES

THE first human gene known to affect the ageing process has been identified by American scientists.

The gene has been isolated in people suffering from a rare genetic disease called Werner's syndrome. Normal as children, sufferers begin to age rapidly in adolescence. They stop growing, their hair goes grey and they suffer several of the degenerative diseases of age, including blocked arteries, diabetes and bone thinning.

The discovery of the cause is an important finding because the changes are so like those of ordinary ageing.

A team from Seattle Veterans Affairs Health Care System and Darwin Molecular Corporation, a biotechnology company in Seattle, reports the results in *Science*.

The gene identified is one that carries the genetic code for an enzyme called a helicase, whose job it is to unwind the two strands of the DNA double helix by

breaking the hydrogen bonds that hold them together. This means that the helicase is involved in many operations, including DNA replication and repair.

Failure of the DNA in cells to copy itself with perfect accuracy, and the consequent slow accumulation of errors, is one of the possible causes of ageing. "We are very excited about the discovery, and that the function of the gene product is apparently so clear," Dr David Galas, executive vice-president of Darwin said.

There is still a great deal to be learnt about the precise processes involved in the cell, but our work has now opened a new window into the biology of age-related diseases," he said.

The scientific team, led by Dr Gerard Schellenberg, concluded that the finding is evidence that "at least some component of normal ageing and disease susceptibility in later life may be related to aberrations in DNA metabolism".



Eva Herzigova

## Bra team gives flask a big lift

The Thermos flask is being given a racy new image by the man who thought up the Wonderbra advert, featuring Eva Herzigova. The £500,000 advertising campaign by Trevor Beattie and his agency TBWA, to be launched this week, includes slogans such as "Leave it, Grandad."

### Set piece

One of the first British-made television sets, a 1958 HMV model 904, fetched £2,700 at Christie's in London. It has a walnut cabinet, built-in wireless and sits by 4½ in round screen — but no longer works with modern power systems or broadcasts.

### Tranquil travel

Mobile telephones and personal stereos have been banned from certain carriages on Great Western trains between Paddington and South Wales. Passengers have also been asked to speak quietly. A spokesman said: "People seem to like the peace and quiet."

### Research prize

Dr Paul Nurse, director of laboratory research at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in London, has won the Dr H.P. Heineken Prize for biochemistry and biophysics, awarded by the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

### Fire kills boy

A four-year-old boy died after fire broke out in his bedroom. Jason Ditch was rescued from the burning room at his home in Colchester, Essex, by firefighters, but died at the scene. His mother, Caroline, and brothers Jake, 6, and Jordan, 2, escaped unharmed.

### Mane road ahead

The first pelican crossing for horses, costing £20,000 and with traffic controls at saddle height, is being built on the Asworth bypass in Nottinghamshire. The new relief road, which crosses a bridle path, also includes six underground tunnels for toads.

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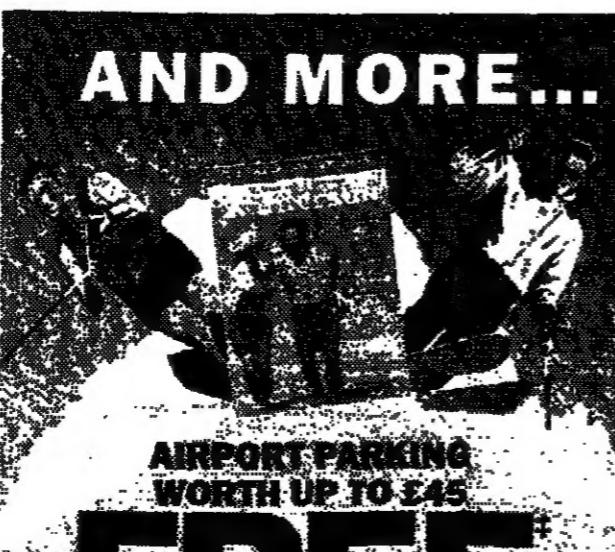
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Ruling party emerges with election lead

## North Korean threats backfire in Seoul poll

FROM AGENCIE FRANCE PRESSE IN SEOUL

WITH more than three fifths of the vote counted, the ruling New Korea Party (NKP) held a clear lead in South Korea's parliamentary elections which dealt a humiliating blow to Kim Dae Jung, the opposition leader.

A record low 63.9 per cent of the electorate took part in yesterday's poll, which was contested against a backdrop of increasing tension with North Korea. Many people chose to get away for the national holiday instead of voting, although there were street battles in Seoul between anti-government students and the police.

Last night, the NKP led in 123 electoral districts, followed by Kim Dae Jung's National Congress for New Politics (NCNP) in 66. The conservative United Liberal Democrats (ULD) led in 39 districts, the Democratic Party in nine districts and independents in 16. There were 244 seats at stake.

including 46 decided on a proportional basis.

Chang Dasaro, an NKP spokesman, said that President Kim Young Sam would have no difficulty maintaining his mandate for the remainder of his term. "We will be able to hold onto our parliamentary majority by fielding sympathetic independents," he said.

Mr Chang predicted that the NKP would secure 138 seats, including their proportional seats, 12 fewer than the 150 needed for an absolute majority.

Earlier predictions by three television networks based on a mixture of exit polls and telephone surveys turned out to have greatly exaggerated gains by the NKP.

Kim Dae Jung, 72, who marched back on to the political scene last year after big opposition gains in local elections in June, suffered a serious setback. He had said that he would run for the president-

cy next year only if yesterday's polls showed the people to be behind him.

Ruling party officials and analysts attributed the strong showing for the NKP to recent North Korean forays into the border area, which boosted the NKP's chances by persuading people to support the Government at time of threat.

"I think Kim Jong Il [the North Korean leader] helped the NKP a lot," Lee Ho Jae, a political science professor at Korea University, said.

The election outcome echoed what happened in the presidential election in Taiwan last month, when President Lee Teng-hui was victorious after China attempted to intimidate Taiwanese voters by conducting missile tests in the Taiwan Strait. North Korea sent troops into the Demilitarized Zone dividing the two Koreas in three consecutive forays over the weekend in violation

of the 1953 armistice agreement.

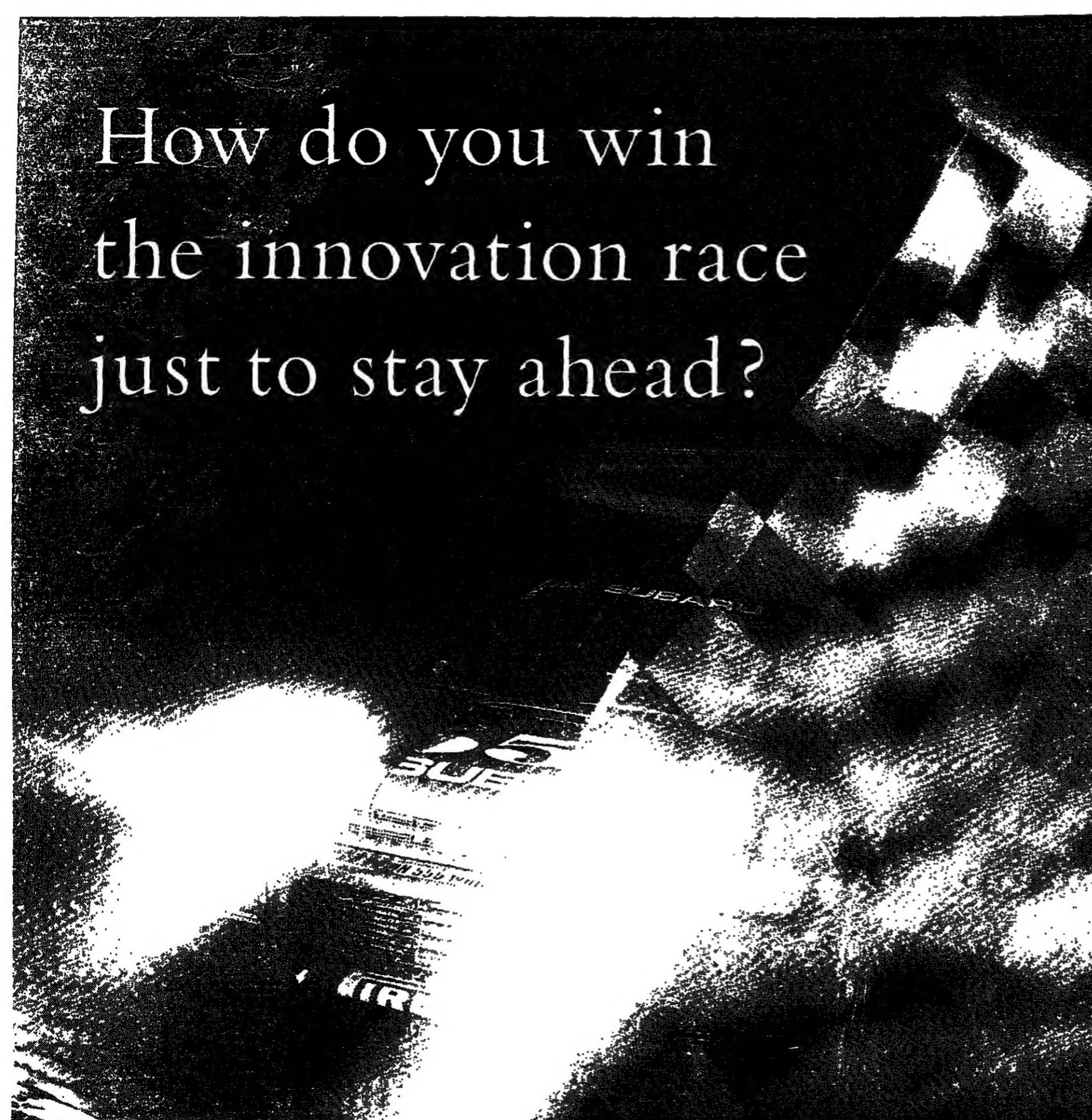
About 1,000 extreme-left-wing students fought the police near Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, hurling firebombs to counter volleys of teargas in a protest against the elections. "Overthrow Kim Young Sam and conservative politicians," the students shouted as they threw hundreds of firebombs at the riot police. Several police officers were engulfed in flames, but there were no serious casualties, witnesses said.

The strong showing for the conservative ULD, headed by Kim Jong Pil, the former Korean Central Intelligence Agency chief, was boosted by areas loyal to Chun Doo Hwan and Roh Tae Woo, the jailed former Presidents. They are on trial charged with corruption and with leading a military rebellion that brought Mr Chun to power in 1980.



President Kim Young Sam prepares to vote in yesterday's general election

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WORLD  
SUMMARY

## UN attack on French 'racism'

Geneva: A United Nations special investigator rejected French claims to be a haven for human rights yesterday when he gave a severe account of racism and xenophobia sweeping the country, in part with official blessing (Peter Capella writes).

In a report on his mission last October, Maurice Glélé-Ahanzano, the special investigator, said xenophobia had been fuelled by the public statements of French politicians as well as by tough nationality and immigration laws passed in 1993.

## FBI warning on Unabomber mail

New York: Timber executives in northwestern America have been told by federal investigators to check their post in case the Unabomber suspect, Theodore Kaczynski, mailed a bomb before his arrest last week (Quentin Letts writes). FBI sources said a device found at Mr Kaczynski's Montana cabin bore an address and, like the deadly parcels sent by the Unabomber, also had a false sender's name and address.

## Harare looking for a hangman

Harare: The Zimbabwe Government, which has more than 100 prisoners under sentence of death, is making secret approaches to prison staff to find a hangman (Jan Raath writes). The last incumbent, who was never named, died last month, taking the secrets of his trade to the grave. "He did not want to teach anyone else the job," a spokesman said.

## America expels Sudan envoy

New York: Ahmed Youssif Muhammad, second secretary at Sudan's United Nations mission, was expelled from the US as part of Washington's campaign to isolate Sudan's Islamic regime (James Bone writes). He was implicated in plots to blow up the UN building in 1993 and to kill President Mubarak of Egypt.

## Africans sign nuclear treaty

Cairo: Forty-three African states signed a treaty declaring Africa free of nuclear weapons. President Mubarak of Egypt told the signing ceremony the Africans had set an example which the Middle East and rest of the world should follow. (Reuters)

Organised crime's profits at \$1,000bn

FROM REUTER IN MANILA

ORGANISED crime gangs make \$1,000 billion (\$660 billion) a year in profits and are powerful economically that they pose a threat to developing countries and emerging democracies, a United Nations official said yesterday.

The profits include \$1 billion laundered through global financial markets every day. Eduardo Vetrone, head of the Vienna-based UN Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Division, told a conference in Manila.

He said that the estimated total of criminal profits almost equalled the annual budget of the United States. "Free trade and high-speed telecommunications make it easier to engage in multiple activities and launder money across national borders with an estimated \$1 billion in crime profits wire-transferred through the world financial markets every day."

He added: "It has become clear that only by tackling organised crime in a concerted manner can we hope to make inroads into a problem that transcends borders and the capacity of national mechanisms alone."

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**Save the Children**

Foreigners evacuated amid Monrovia bloodshed

## Briton condemns UN over escape ordeal in Liberia

BY LEVIA LINTON

ONE of the first Britons evacuated from Monrovia, the Liberian capital, condemned the United Nations yesterday for refusing to help her when her life was in danger.

Wendy White, 38, from Staplehurst, Kent, said that, to the sound of gunfire, she and her colleagues had made a terrifying six-mile journey through the city only for officials at the UN's Riverview compound to refuse them admission for four hours. UN officials also tried to stop her and her friends from boarding one of two helicopters leaving the compound.

The officials told her and her companions that they were not a priority and that the helicopters were not intended to help with evacuation. But the German pilots refused to leave without passengers and Ms White and other Britons were eventually given seats after UN personnel were ordered not to leave.

In the confusion one Briton, Ian Christmas, 41, from Doncaster, was left behind and is believed now to be without adequate supplies of food and water. "Our fear now is that he and the others could be taken hostage," said Ms White, who returned to Britain yesterday.

She and her friends had sheltered in the house of a World Food Programme official in Monrovia for three days. "He was very good, but most of them kept themselves to themselves, to the point where we felt they were keep-

ing supplies to themselves," she said.

By last Monday Ms White said the rebels had looted the Mobil compound next door. "We knew we were next, and we were constantly under fear of attack. Towards the end food was running out."

Ms White, Andrew Dunham, her partner, and fellow Briton David Wood-Roberts finally boarded one of the helicopters at dusk on Monday. When they arrived in Freetown after a two-hour

**"Nothing had prepared me for Monrovia; it is a hell hole. Every single building was a shell!"**

flight, Ms White said she kissed the tarmac. "I really thought I was going to die," she added.

Ms White's ordeal began when she was woken by shots and grenade explosions at 3.30am last Saturday as rebels surrounded General Roosevelt Johnson's house just two blocks from the hotel where she was staying. At 8am a rocket-propelled grenade hit the top floor while she was at reception. "The door was open and there was a big gust of wind. My legs turned to jelly.

She added that it was extremely difficult to do business in the country. "Every time you wanted to do something you had to give backhanders." She added that her and Mr Dunham's company, Liberty Air, had just managed to land a few contracts when the fighting broke out.

but could not reach hospitals and clinics because of the fighting, which was also preventing drugs and dressings reaching treatment centres.

While a handful of expatriates remain to help Libyans, the gunmen seem bent on tribal massacre, and indiscriminate killing. Yesterday fighters fired a rocket into the Greystone compound, an American-owned site where 15,000 civilians are sheltering. The rocket killed two boys and wounded several others.

Lawlessness has overtaken Monrovia since Charles Taylor and Al Haji Kromoh, members of a nascent coalition Government, accused Roosevelt Johnson, their Krahn tribal rival, of murder and unleashed a bloody campaign to

arrest him last week. His fighters returned in kind.

Paul Koulent, the deputy representative of the United Nations' Development Programme, said: "The conflict is out of control. Charles Taylor and Al Haji Kromoh made a monstrous miscalculation. They have forced a re-alliance of forces along tribal lines. None of them has control or can restore public order. It is anarchy." Moments earlier his offices were raided and cars looted by teenagers armed with AK-47 rifles.

I have been in Liberia throughout the civil war, which broke out in 1989. In the worst days of 1990 and 1992 the warlords had some kind of control over their men, but even this has vanished.

## Troops of peace force join in looting

BY JAMES BONE  
AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

WEST African peacekeepers joined in "very heavy, very systematic" looting as fighting continued yesterday in Monrovia, the Liberian capital, United Nations officials said.

Sylvana Foa, for the UN, said reports from the UN mission spoke of a "frenzy of looting" and that it appeared leaders of the warring factions had lost control of their fighters.

UN sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it appeared some West African peacekeepers, particularly Nigerians, had joined in the looting. The peacekeeping force, consisting of soldiers from the 16-nation Economic Community of West African States, was sent to Liberia in 1990 and is known as Ecomog.

UN military observers were forced to take refuge in the US Embassy compound during the looting. A UN scout team which toured the city found "systematic looting everywhere", but UN headquarters lost contact with its offices in Mamba Point, two miles from the city centre, where "UN Row" and the US Embassy are located. The 73 UN military observers in Monrovia fled their headquarters in Mamba Point when the gates were broken down by looters.

The UN Children's Fund and UN Development Programme offices were also reported to have been plundered, and 12 UN staff are said to have sought shelter at the US Embassy. The offices of the World Health Organisation were looted earlier in the week.



Starr signs: Starr Lammon, of Napa, California, cradling her youngest daughter Nicolette, who was born on Monday — exactly the same date as her mother and two sisters Jeirlynn, 12, left, and Ashley, aged 2

## Fifteen die in German airport fire

BY OUR FOREIGN STAFF

AT LEAST 15 people were reported killed and more than 100 injured when a fire broke out in a flower shop at Düsseldorf International airport yesterday.

Many of the casualties were overcome by thick smoke through which firefighters had to search for the victims before the blaze was brought under control, witnesses said.

Police said many of the deaths appeared to have been caused by inhaling poisonous gas.

The dead were found in the shop and a lift, said police, who added that the death

count could rise because of the seriousness of some of the injuries.

A policeman and a child were among nine of the dead who were found in the lift system. Tents were set up to treat the casualties.

Panic broke out in the arrivals hall when the fire erupted. Officials evacuated the terminal and closed the airport to all air traffic, police said.

ZDF television showed pictures of a deserted, smoky terminal after the fire and a body covered with a white sheet on a stretcher on the street outside.

"My co-worker saw sparks flying out of a ventilation grille over this flower store, and he immediately called the fire brigade," an unidentified young man told the television station.

Uninjured travellers were transported to hotels or to the Konrad Adenauer Airport that services Cologne and Bonn, where planes that had been scheduled to arrive at Düsseldorf were being redirected. Access roads to the airport were closed.

Düsseldorf is Germany's second busiest airport in terms of passengers after Frankfurt.

## Leaders lose control of gunmen in capital

FROM BUDU KAISA  
IN MONROVIA

A WOMAN who had not eaten since she gave birth several days before lay groaning on the concrete floor of the casualty clinic, next to two young men shot in the back by the gunmen who have turned Monrovia into a city of bloodlust and savagery.

"We are trying to manage, but there is nothing to do to save their lives," said the French doctor with Médecins Sans Frontières, one of a team of seven who have refused the chance of a flight to safety on American helicopters.

The exhausted doctor said that many people all over the city were wounded,

but could not reach hospitals and clinics because of the fighting, which was also preventing drugs and dressings reaching treatment centres.

While a handful of expatriates remain to help Libyans, the gunmen seem bent on tribal massacre, and indiscriminate killing. Yesterday fighters fired a rocket into the Greystone compound, an American-owned site where 15,000 civilians are sheltering. The rocket killed two boys and wounded several others.

Lawlessness has overtaken Monrovia since Charles Taylor and Al Haji Kromoh, members of a nascent coalition Government, accused Roosevelt Johnson, their Krahn tribal rival, of murder and unleashed a bloody campaign to

arrest him last week. His fighters returned in kind.

Paul Koulent, the deputy representative of the United Nations' Development Programme, said: "The conflict is out of control. Charles Taylor and Al Haji Kromoh made a monstrous miscalculation. They have forced a re-alliance of forces along tribal lines. None of them has control or can restore public order. It is anarchy."

Moments earlier his offices were raided and cars looted by teenagers armed with AK-47 rifles.

## Tyson in training with Islam to beat temptation

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

MIKE TYSON, the heavyweight boxing champion, remained silent yesterday about a woman's allegation that he assaulted her in a Chicago nightclub.

His Islamic spiritual adviser, however, said that "Iron Mike" was prayerful and that although he recently mastered the five daily supplications a devout Muslim must recite, he faced a "never-ending struggle" with temptation.

Police said they were taking "appropriate action" regarding the complaint of a 25-year-old woman that Mr Tyson bit her face after they kissed in a discotheque early on Monday morning. The unnamed woman's lawyer, Jerry Lee Peeler, said that there were two witnesses. She claimed that Mr Tyson summoned her after seeing her on the dance floor.

The boxer himself remained behind the closed door of his large house in Southington, Ohio, but friends disputed the suggestion that Mr Tyson was with the woman in a roped-off part of the slick Clique club. A member of the club management claimed that throughout

his visit Mr Tyson discussed setting up a series of youth centres in Chicago — a perhaps implausible claim given the late hour. The assault, termed "sexual battery" in the police complaint, allegedly occurred at 1.30am in a private room towards the back of the club, a fashionable establishment where ordinary clubgoers can expect to mingle with the celebrities who make it one of their haunts.

Muhammad Siddeq, a spiritual adviser who has taught Mr Tyson the tenets of his new-found faith, said that his pupil was learning a routine of "prayer, charity and fasting, trying to recognise the goodness of all human beings and trying to avoid those kind of things that keep us going in the right direction".

Clique that night was no place for avoiding temptation. The women were beautiful and the music was loud. Mr Tyson, who remains on parole after his 1992 rape conviction, had gone to Chicago ostensibly to worship at a mosque, but when he was through with his prayers he made for one of the best known honeypots in town. Mr Tyson was drinking nothing stronger than cranberry juice, said his lieutenants, but George Walker, chief probation officer for Marion County's Superior Court criminal division, said: "Bars are not the best place for parolees."

Tyson, however, suggested that the woman was simply trying her luck. An acquaintance of the complainant came to Mr Tyson's defense. Tamara Battle, a beauty parlour assistant, said: "She [the alleged victim] kept asking the person who took her coat if she could meet Mike Tyson."

Miss Battle said that she could detect no bite marks on the woman's face when they left Clique together.

## Marital slip-up for ice skater

BY QUENTIN LETTS

TONYA HARDING, the bad girl of ice skating, has sued for divorce after less than four months of marriage. When it comes to triple saloos, Miss Harding is mustard, but in her private life she has repeatedly flat on her rump.

The divorce action was started this week in Oregon after Miss Harding experienced "irreconcilable differences" with her second husband, Michael Smith. She wished him happiness and success in his career (he is a machinist) and hoped the good wishes were reciprocated (unlikely). It seems a different world from December 23, the day of their white wedding on board a yacht.

The wedding was sealed from the press because the couple hoped to sell exclusive photographs of the event to a tabloid newspaper. Fisticuffs, a car chase and screamed insults followed when it was discovered that one of the wedding guests had sold snapshots of the bride and groom to an Oregon publication.

In January 1994 Jeff Gillooly, Miss Harding's first husband, plotted to inflict a knee injury on Miss Harding's then Olympic ice-skating rival, Nancy Kerrigan. Miss Harding pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges and paid \$160,000 (£106,000) in fines and costs.

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# Gibraltar tension rises after drug chase death

By DOMINIQUE SEARLE IN GIBRALTAR AND EDWARD OWEN

A DRAMATIC helicopter pursuit of a drug-running power boat racing for the Spanish coast ended yesterday when the helicopter crashed, killing a Civil Guard.

The smugglers apparently threw an ear into the aircraft's tail rotor.

The incident has caused a new diplomatic tug-of-war over the disputed territory between Britain and Spain. The boat was registered to a Briton and the involvement of a Gibraltar has renewed Spanish anger over the use of Gibraltar for the illicit import of tobacco and drugs into Spain, often from North Africa.

Spain immediately imposed tough new border controls on routes between Spain and Gibraltar, causing delays of up to three hours for cars and increasing the transit time for pedestrians from a few minutes to half an hour.

César Braña, the Civil Governor of Cádiz, announced the imposition of "severe and strict" controls after the death of José Muntidado Hidalgo, a Civil Guard aircraft mechanic.

The helicopter pilot and his communications officer were uninjured in the crash after three men in the Gibraltar-registered rigid inflatable boat



A powerful rigid inflatable boat, of the sort used by smugglers between North Africa and Spain via Gibraltar, speeds towards the Rock

had allegedly dumped some 1,300lb of cannabis on a beach at Barbate de Franco, near Cape Trafalgar.

Yesterday David Brighty, the British Ambassador to Madrid, was summoned by the Spanish Foreign Ministry to hear José Rodríguez Spíndola, Madrid's head of European diplomacy, express Spain's "profound irritation" at the incident and complain that Britain had failed to introduce effective measures on the Rock to combat illicit activities.

A Spaniard escaped from the scene but two other men, a Moroccan and a Gibraltar, were arrested.

Senior Brana said yesterday that a broken ear was found in the smugglers' boat, indicating that it may have been thrown into the helicopter's machinery. Eye-witnesses spoke on Spanish television of the aircraft's runner hitting the water and knocking it out of control.

In Gibraltar on Wednesday, Paul Alan Tremayne, a Briton who is registered as owner of the vessel, was detained on suspicion of wasting police time after he reported the boat stolen. Royal Gibraltar police have indicated that his report came after news of the incident had broken on radio. Rigid

inflatable boats are used by smugglers because of their long range. They often move across the strait at high speed at night without lights.

In an almost daily duel, Spanish Civil Guard helicopters and launches try to catch the smugglers who race across to Spain with cheap tobacco from the Rock as well as hashish brought from Morocco. Recently Britain had

agreed to ban the use of some 200 high-powered speedboats, with names such as *Midnight Express*, that were moored in Gibraltar's marinas. Their crews would cross the few hundred yards to Spain when the all-clear, or the presence of a bribed Spanish official, was signalled by mobile telephones.

Last July the Gibraltar au-

thorities seized all 64 rigid inflatable boats based on The Rock. Strict quotas and controls on cheap American tobacco were later introduced, resulting in an end to the widespread tobacco smuggling. Spain partly relaxed controls at the frontier last autumn in response to the move and Gibraltar authorities demanded detailed paperwork and requirements from the boat owners. As a result,

only 12 vessels were returned in rules aimed at avoiding owners obtaining court orders which on previous occasions have succeeded in defeating legislation. However, it is known that some smugglers had moved their bases to Ceuta, the Spanish North African enclave, and some Spanish coastal villages.

Leading article, page 17

## London pledges action to halt the smugglers' speedboats

By MICHAEL BINION  
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

BRITAIN last night expressed "deep regret" at the death of the Spanish Civil Guard killed while pursuing drug smugglers near Gibraltar, and insisted that it was committed to stamping out smuggling on the Rock.

The Foreign Office said it would co-operate in the investigation, and announced an immediate check on the speedboats licensed in Gibraltar. However, a spokesman said that since July there had been lighter control on the licensing of

fast inflatable boats, and the Gibraltar Government had reduced their number from 65 to 11.

The Foreign Office, while not rejecting Spain's protest to David Brighty, the British Ambassador, suggested that this did not take account of the co-operation between Britain and Spain to curb smuggling into southern Spain. It noted that the 30-minute meeting had been "business-like" — diplomatic language for sharp and cool — and said the ambassador had reiterated Britain's commitment to last year's measures to tighten law and order in Gibraltar. The Government is

embarrassed that the incident has revived Spanish protests over Gibraltar at a time when it hoped that Gibraltar's new laws on drug smuggling and money laundering, enacted last July, would reduce tensions with Madrid over the Rock.

Earlier, Britain's troubled relations with Gibraltar led to a confrontation between the Foreign Office and the Government of Joe Bossano, the Chief Minister, that almost culminated 18 months ago in the suspension of the Rock's constitution and the imposition of direct rule.

From the summer of 1994 until

December, Douglas Hurd, then Foreign Secretary, had an acrimonious correspondence with Mr Bossano, insisting that he do more to put into effect dozens of EU directives that were being circumvented. Britain offered to send over officials to help draft legislation. It gave Mr Bossano a deadline of January 1995 to comply.

Finally, as relations between Britain, Spain and Gibraltar became ever more tense, Mr Hurd and Javier Solana, then Spanish Foreign Minister, met in London to agree on measures to halt the use of the Rock for smuggling and ensure that differences on Gibraltar did not derail overall relations between Britain and Spain.

Britain is responsible for Gibraltar's dealings with the EU and its external relations under the 1969 constitution. The British Government wary of suggestions that it is ready to see an eventual transfer of sovereignty, has refused to discuss Gibraltar's status in the regular meetings with Spain. Under the Treaty of Utrecht, which ceded the Rock to Britain, the territory cannot opt for independence; if Britain relinquishes control, sovereignty returns to Spain.

According to a female relation interviewed by the police, the couple did not have any financial or marital problems. They emigrated to France from Poland in the early 1970s, studied architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts before founding their award-winning architecture firm, PLI, in 1981.

Investigators have ruled out

burglary. Everything was clean as if it had been tidied up, the police say.

The police suspect that the father and elder son were killed in their sleep. No trace of blood was found on Mme Zakrzewski's body or clothing. The weapon used to kill Piotr and Adam is missing.

According to a female relation interviewed by the police,

the couple did not have any financial or marital problems.

They emigrated to France from Poland in the early 1970s, studied architecture at the Ecole des Beaux Arts before founding their award-winning

architecture firm, PLI, in 1981.

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THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 12 1996

# Juppé drops rights speech as Li signs £1bn trade deals

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

FRANCE and China signed a letter of intent to develop a 100-seat aircraft yesterday despite a diplomatic incident the previous evening in which Alain Juppé, the French Prime Minister, was apparently forced to withdraw a toast referring to human rights after Li Peng, his Chinese counterpart, expressed his displeasure at the proposed text.

Security measures were tightened yesterday as Mr Li arrived at the Elysée Palace two hours ahead of schedule to sign the agreement between Aérospatiale and AVIC, the Chinese aviation company. The letter of intent came after the two sides signed trade deals worth nearly Fr10 billion (£1.3 billion) on Wednesday. They included a contract for the Airbus Industrie to sell



A smiling President Chirac welcomes Li Peng to the Elysée Palace despite differences on human rights

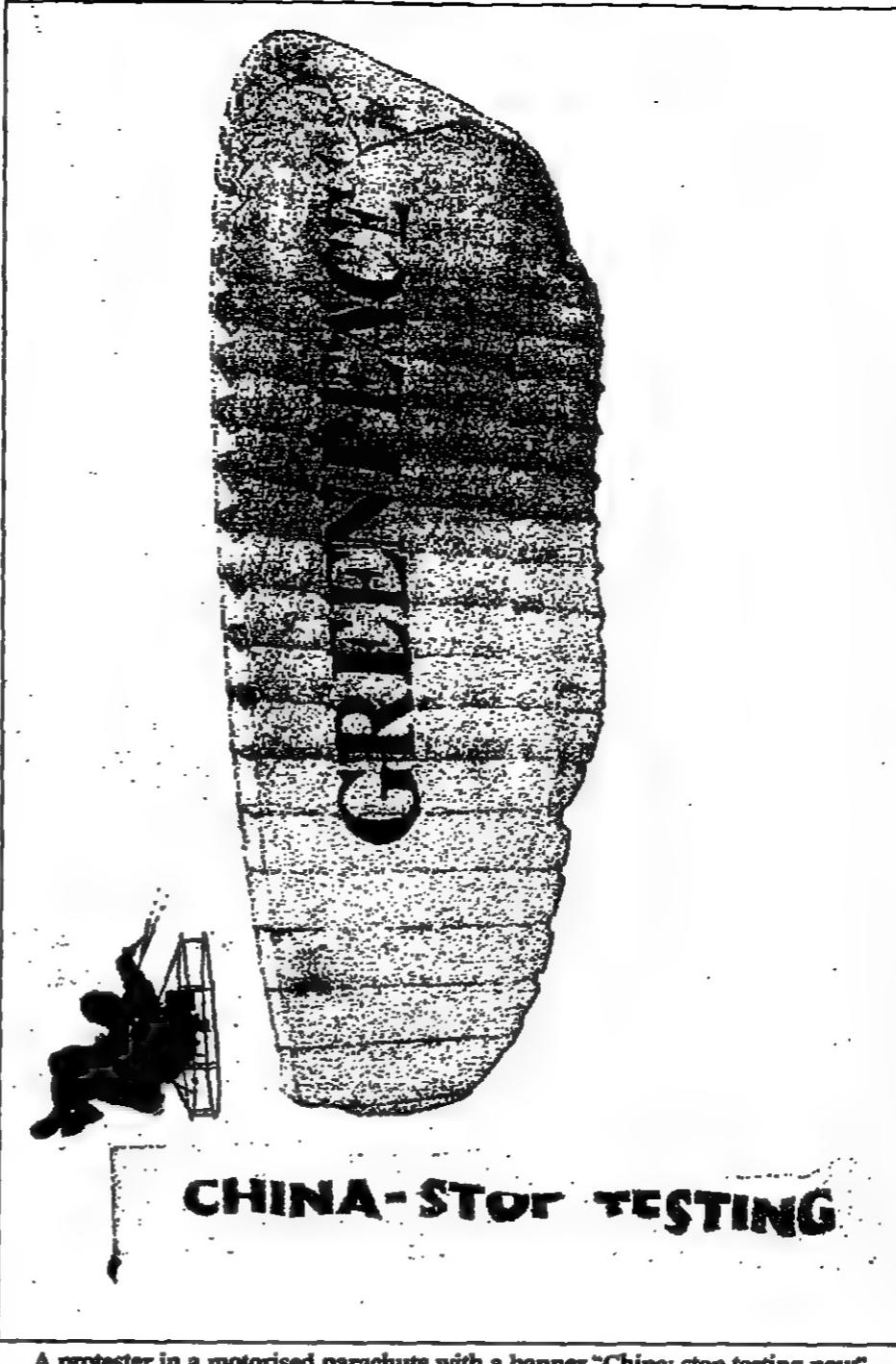
The text of M Juppé's proposed toast, which laid emphasis on France's commitment to human rights and which had given offence to the Chinese leader, contained the words: "All lasting economic and social development must be accompanied by a parallel progress in democracy and human rights."

During an interview broadcast on the radio station Europe 1 yesterday, a government minister defended M Juppé's actions against Socialist critics that he had "given in" to Chinese pressure to ensure the Airbus contract. The Prime Minister "did not want to give up anything he had to say. He took nothing back. He simply did not deliver his speech," said Dominique Perben, the Minister in charge of the Public Sector.

News footage shown yesterday on French television showed a distinctly frosty M Juppé perfunctorily shaking hands with the Chinese Prime Minister after the signing. The *froideur* of M Juppé's greeting was in contrast with that of President Chirac, who welcomed his Chinese guest to the Elysée with open arms and a warm smile.

During a 90-minute meeting with the Chinese leader described as positive, M Chirac had reaffirmed France's commitment to human rights issues, an Elysée spokesman said. "The discussion was very open on every subject."

Hervé de Charette, the French Foreign Minister, said that he had given a letter to his



A protester in a motorised parachute with a banner "China: stop testing now"

Chinese counterpart, Qian Qichen, expressing Paris's concern about 20 Chinese dissidents. This was denied by the Chinese, who said "there were no such names".

Protests against the Chinese leader's visit went on in Paris. The most spectacular was a demonstration against China's continued nuclear testing by a Greenpeace protester in a motorised parachute who flew over the Arc de Triomphe trailing a banner reading "China: stop testing now" before being arrested as he landed in a park.

## Karadzic 'poses threat to peace plan'

FROM STACY SULLIVAN  
IN SARAJEVO

MEDIATORS in charge of implementing the Dayton peace plan in Bosnia-Herzegovina said yesterday that they feared the peace process could collapse unless Radovan Karadzic, the Bosnian Serb leader charged with war crimes, is removed from power.

Under the plan, Dr Karadzic and General Ratko Mladić, the Bosnian Serb

military leader, were required to step down. However, they remain in control behind the scenes and are attempting to undermine the process.

Mediators in charge of prisoner exchanges, economic reconstruction, the return of refugees, and elections say every time they win a commitment from Rako Kasagić, the Bosnian Serb Prime Minister, it is overturned by Dr Karadzic.

"What we are seeing is the re-emergence of a hardline group which is

disquieting to the peace process," said Colum Murphy, spokesman for the Office of the High Representative run by Carl Bildt. "What we have been told is that Dr Karadzic has issued instructions to the Dayton interlocutors to withdraw from the peace process." Mr Bildt's office and the Nato-led peace implementation force have refused to meet Dr Karadzic or General Mladić because they have been charged by the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal at The Hague.

## Hell's Angels under fire

## Andreotti 'did not order killing'

FROM PHILIP WILLIAN  
IN PERUGIA

Helsingborg, Sweden: At least two anti-tank grenades were fired on the Swedish headquarters of the Hell's Angels biker gang near here yesterday, police said.

Firefighters quickly extinguished flames which spread after the attack on the building, which was targeted by bazooka fire last year. (AFP)

nati, a suspected right-wing terrorist, are in prison accused of shooting Pecorelli outside his office in Rome on March 20, 1979.

"We will show that Senator Andreotti was not among those who may have ordered this killing," Franco Coppi, the former Prime Minister's lawyer, told the court.

Michelangelo La Barbera, an alleged member of the Mafia, and Massimo Carmi, the secret services, to prevent

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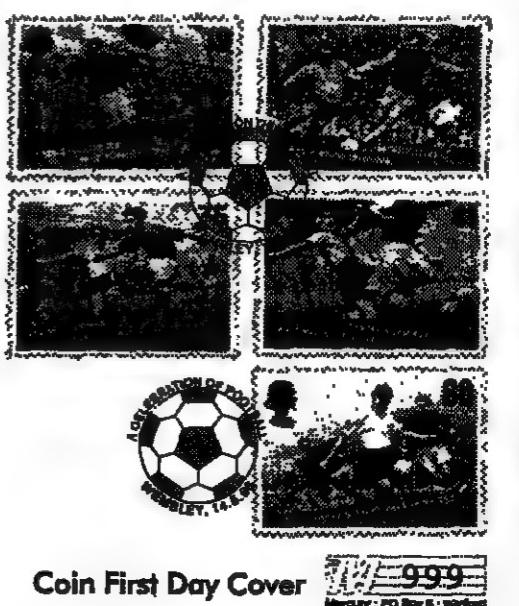
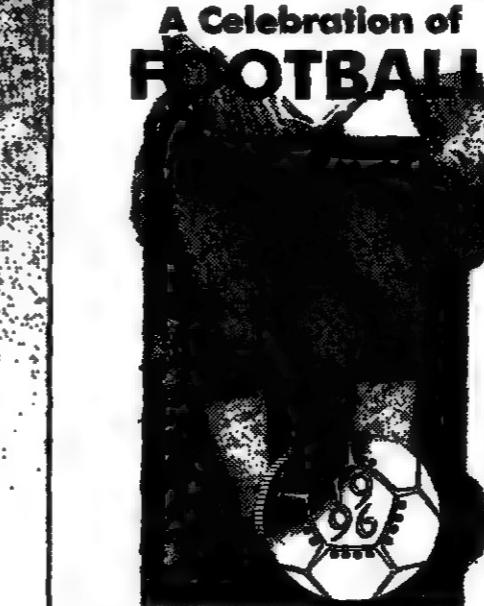
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## Reluctant Britain faces tough odds in battle of euro

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

The prospect that Europe's single market might be blown apart by its single currency will loom over Verona today when European Union ministers meet in the Italian city to thrash out a scheme that could rope the pound together with the future euro.

Although he can count on some help from like-minded Sweden, Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, is unlikely to win much ground as he makes Britain's lonely case against a currency that is more or less favoured by the 13 other member states.

The finance ministers and central bank governors are supposed to clear the way for the birth of the euro, planned for January 1999, does not bring with it the risk of a monetary upheaval that could divide the EU, penalising Germany, France and the handful of other likely founders of monetary union.

The Verona gathering will also tackle a German-backed scheme for enforcing discipline inside monetary union and will look at possible names for the decimal sub-units of the euro, as the planned currency was named in December.

Despite Britain's refusal to be corralled into a new version of the exchange-rate mechanism from which it was ejected in 1992, EU officials believe London eventually will deem it worthwhile to join. "It can be done without the British, but it would be in everyone's interest, including their own, to get on board," a Commission official said yesterday.

France is leading a drive, supported by Belgium, to devise penalties that would deter

Britain from staying out of a new currency scheme. The need for a solution to what is known as the problem of the "ins and the outs" has become acute. As the continental economies have staggered, only Luxembourg now meets the "convergence criteria" required for EMU membership.

With Germany struggling to meet the test to be applied to national performance next year, it has become clear that the initial euro club will be small. Germany's Bundesbank is fighting to ensure that politics are not allowed to dilute the criteria. Omar Issing, chief economist to the bank, cracked the whip this week with a warning against the temptation to brush aside the criteria.

Although a few months ago debate focused on protecting the "outs" from the effects of initial banishment from the charmed EMU circle, France, Germany and the handful of other likely "ins" have been growing more worried about the possible disadvantages of membership.

Governments struggling to win public support for a scheme which is widely expected to inflict economic pain are eager to avert the danger that Britain, Italy and other probable big non-members will use their monetary independence to score off the euro bloc through "competitive devaluation" of their currencies.

Leading article, page 17

Michael Binyon takes a wry father's view of all-night jam sessions and sweaty pub gigs



The Replicant Saints go marching in — and, they hope, up — with, clockwise from left, Struan Robertson, Tom Rogerson, Martin Binyon, Tom Dunn, Eva Rice and William Prideaux

## My son, the rock star

**O**f course if he had wanted to play in an orchestra, I would have been intrinsically ambitious. You must practise. You must sit the exams. Don't waste your time at parties. Listen to this player, that recording, come to this concert and I'll get tickets.

I could see the legend beginning: the seven-year-old in Russia taking piano lessons with Natasha, the encouraging school reports from Mr Johns, the teenager trumpeting Bach on the school chapel organ, evenings of Beethoven and Mozart on the Yamaha ... My son, the pianist. I would perhaps boast one day. But no. Reality usually dawns

on most parents, and when the house shook all day with the Beatles, the Rolling Stones and Muddy Waters, I knew that the classical world had been vanquished by the more raucous tastes of a different generation. So it was to be pop instead. Drums all over the house. A keyboard on the dining-room table. Practice with the band: the first gig in a pub: all-night jamming sessions with Tom on the guitar trying out new rhythms, new lyrics. The first vital demonstration tape. But my son, the pop star? Impossible.

Well, not quite impossible it seems. The Replicant Saints have begun to go marching in — all six of them. They filled

the function room at the Dog and Fox more than a year ago — mostly with friends, girlfriends and supporters, of course, but with dry ice and some strobe lighting they put on a lively show. Things have got a bit more professional since then. The amplifiers have got bigger, the keyboard more sophisticated, the lyrics more subtle and twisty.

At Christmas they played at the Half Moon in Putney — a vital first rung up the pop ladder, Martin insisted. We sneaked in for half an hour, and an uncertain pride vied in me with nostalgia — didn't I remember the raw energy, the fug, the showiness and the beery cheers in the hallowed

Sixties? Even Martin's great-aunt, 85, was impressed. "They make a terrible noise. And I really don't think the girl knows how to move at all." It was a compliment bound to assure success.

Eva, the back-up singer, does know how to move, of course. Better still, with the surname Rice and a father who has written enough lyrics to make all Argentines cry, she knows how to move the dialectists and columnists. Her picture and the Replicant Saints made a national newspaper. A Bristol radio station followed. A Sunday tabloid promised a profile. And they all found an irresistible theme: not only is it a case of like father, like

daughter, but the men around her with wild hair and zany clothes are all Etonians. A softs' band! Now, there's an item for the pop press. All that money spent on posh education, and today's OEs are going out to govern not the colonies but the other field where Britain now reigns supreme. A whole new meaning, perhaps, to the Playing Fields of Eton.

We parents are convinced. "You still have to pass the exams." I found myself saying, censoriously. "Have you done any work yet on the Victorians? What can you tell me about *In Memoriam*? You haven't even read any Tennyson yet." But for a 21-year-old the question whether Gallipoli failed because of poor execution or was a flawed idea from the start seems less urgent than how to design a striking cover for the demo tape or how much improvisation should take over from the basic rhythm.

And then what about jobs? When the Saints, scattered now across the universities of the country, get together for practice there is talk of a proper tour: expenses-only appearances at anniversary bashes and college functions rising through pubs, clubs and a nice little earner at an Oxford ball to bigger halls and more ambitious venues.

**P**erhaps I should be dreaming of the bonanza, the moment when the star will buy his little old parents a cottage in Cornwall. Dream on. "Haven't you been down to the careers centre yet?" I nag. "Haven't you any idea what you want to do?"

One promising post-Saints career would be a politician. It seems that every Tory minister nowadays spent his youth in a pop band, and some, such as John Redwood, seem to be reverting to happier, witter days: the outspoken backbencher now confesses to liking Britpop and is fishing for the student vote. And wasn't Tony Blair in a student rock group? Down Under, Paul Keating managed a band before taking up politics. And in Norway at least the addiction carries on: the Finance Minister plays a guitar in a group, and several of his Cabinet colleagues shed their suits at weekends and make their statements with guitars and

drums: all quite natural in Norway.

There comes the dreadful realisation that I ought to take a vague, parental interest in the field. I know about pleocroms, I can distinguish some elements of Britpop, I am used to James Brown and the JBs and like blues in limited doses.

I have discussed touch-sensitive keyboards and synthesizers with other colleagues also being pressed for a generous parental loan. Beyond that, it is hopeless.

But all communication is not lost: Martin also cherishes a passion for opera and is trying, gently, to educate an illiterate father.

want to go to La traviata? Shall I try for tickets? It's code, of course, and means: I want to get to this performance, but I need you to buy the tickets. I usually fall for it. And I shall sneak into the Half Moon on Tuesday when the Replicant Saints are back, by special request. Up there, slick in black, will be My Son the Pop Star.

## Ambition that flies sky high

Norris McWhirter on the deadly urge to break records

**I**n the United States a sudden large crowd is often compared to a posse of lawyers around a lit accident. Yesterday's tragic light aircraft crash in the business area of Cheyenne, Wyoming, by a seven-year-old "pilot", Jessica Dubroff, seems likely to create both legal precedents and new laws.

Taking off in a rainstorm on Wednesday from Half Moon Bay, California, the Cessna 177B four-seater had aboard the 4ft 2in tall Jessica, her father Lloyd Dubroff and a flight instructor. Jessica was fitted with leg extensions to enable her to reach the foot controls. Before take-off she pronounced: "I am going to break the record." Her father confined himself to the comment: "I would be more worried about her horseback riding."

Knowing the vicarious pleasure that parents and grandparents derive from the precocity of their progeny, successive editors of the *Guinness Book of Records* have long had a policy of censoring the publication of records of, for instance, the youngest swimmer or the youngest marathon runner.

There can be few sights more cruel than loving parents working on their reflected glory image. One of the most harrowing cases was the postwar one of an Australian father determined that his four-month-old daughter should become the world's youngest unaccompanied swimmer.

The record to which the late Jessica Dubroff was probably referring was so heavily publicised on the front pages of American newspapers that it appears in order to recite it. On February 24, 1983, the freckled Cody A. Locke flew a Cessna 150 solo near Mexicali airfield, Mexico, aged nine years 316 days.

In Britain the extremes are less extreme. The RAF, during the Second World War, accepted a certain Thomas Dobney for flying training. It was only when he was sporting his "wings" and the three stripes of a sergeant that he admitted that he had overstated his age and was in fact only 15 years 5 months old. However, he was not even the British record holder because, in December,

her 1942, an aircraft-crazy boy named James Stedley, aged 14 years 5 months, not only took off on a maiden joyride in an unattended Piper Cub trainer aircraft, but landed it in one piece. He then opened the door to help out his younger brother, a 13-year-old passenger. The local constabulary at Ludgershall, Wiltshire, were nonplussed as to what precise offence had been committed.

From a passenger's point of view the oldest pilot might seem almost as dangerous as the youngest. In 1979 Ed McCarty of Kimberly, Idaho, was still keeping his 30-year-old



Fatal flight: Jessica

Escaped in the air by dint of virtually rebuilding it until he was 94.

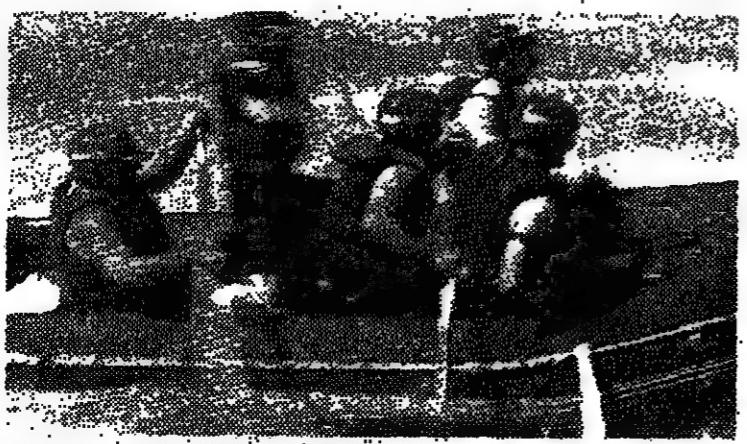
The legendary Air Commodore Harold "Daddy" Probyn, CBE, DSO, who had flown in the First World War in the Royal Flying Corps, was still flying in Kenya 67 years later, aged 92. More recently in 1993, Stanley Wood (1896-1994) of Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex, was still taking the controls of a Piper Cherokee Warrior in a flying career which spanned 80 per cent of the history of aviation, which began in 1903, when the Wright brothers first flew in their stiff collars, ties and dark business suits at Kill Devil Hill, Kitty Hawk, North Carolina.

One can only suspect that Sir Christopher Chataway, chairman of the Civil Aviation Authority, had not got to hear of Stanley Wood. Sir Christopher records in Who's Who that he himself "briefly held the world 5,000-metre record" and clearly understands the human passion for breaking records.

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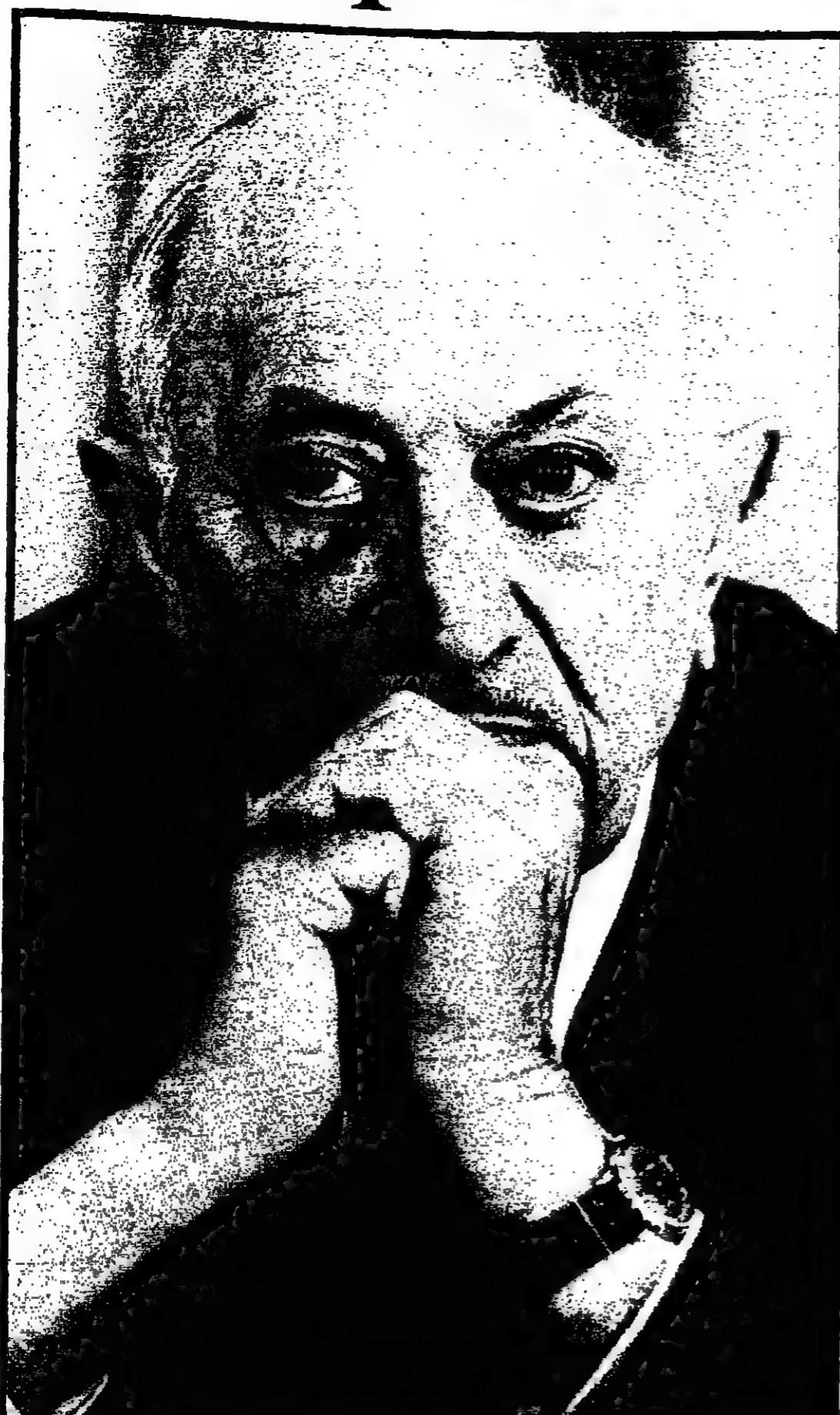
ambition  
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McWhirter on the  
race to break records

THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 12 1996

FEATURES 15

# No peace for the Nazi hunter



Simon Wiesenthal: letters still pour in to his office at the rate of 50 a day, many containing donations

I tell you an old Jewish joke," Simon Wiesenthal says. "Why is it that grandparents like grandchildren, and grandchildren like grandparents? You know why? Because they have a common enemy!"

The most surprising thing about meeting Simon Wiesenthal is his fondness for jokes. "Humour is very important to Jews. But in the concentration camp" — where he produced vivid cartoons and caricatures — "there were no jokes."

The "Nazi hunter" is now 87 years old. His admirers are legion. But so are his detractors, notably among Jews. He is obstinate, cussed, tunnel-visioned. Hella Pick's new biography, *Simon Wiesenthal: A Life In Search of Justice*, is scrupulously objective in giving his critics' views, and candid about Wiesenthal's egomaniacity and his relish — though denied the Nobel Peace Prize — for fame and honour.

He is a large physical presence with long gnomic ears, and expressive eyes that often seem on the verge of tears of sentiment or passion — until he laughs.

I am in Vienna to see him because he is not well enough to come to London — "yesterday I was the whole day in pyjamas" — yet his vigour matches his unimpaired zeal. His office, on the site of former Gestapo headquarters, is simply marked "Documentation Centre". On the second floor is a long, sunny library lined with box files. Several are marked "Neo-Nazis". Rows of files contain letters. Memories and inquiries pour in at the rate of 50 a day. Wiesenthal opens them methodically and finds that many contain small donations, enabling him to carry on his solitary, messianic mission to ensure that no Nazi murderer, however old, will be allowed to die in peace. This remains his aim, "even as my life draws to its biological end".

Six years ago, the equally venerable Lord Shawcross (now 94), the chief prosecutor at Nuremberg, told me why he opposed the War Crimes Bill. Trying aged Nazis would merely fan the flames of anti-Semitism. The hangings at Nuremberg had not deterred subsequent murderous regimes. And he had always said that after Nuremberg, a line had to be drawn; otherwise the trials might continue "to the crack of doom".

I started to offer Wiesenthal Lord Shawcross's objections, but he stopped me with a caveat about using the euphemism "war criminals". "The crimes of the Nazis start six years before the war, and the majority of the crimes have nothing to do with the war."

Wiesenthal came home from Nuremberg despondent. "My wife asks me: What is with you? You

At 87 Simon Wiesenthal is still passionately committed to his stubborn, solitary mission to seek out and destroy Nazi war criminals

don't eat, you don't sleep, you wish not to talk to anybody." I say: "The Nazis lost the war. But we have lost the post-war." The difficulty after 1945 was that the Cold War diverted attention to a new monster, Uncle Joe Stalin. Protecting Europe became the priority. The only winners of the Cold War were the Nazis and the Nazi criminals."

The story of Wiesenthal's wartime survival is miraculous. He was beaten, rounded up to be killed twice; escaped, was recaptured to do forced labour. Once he survived because they needed an artist to paint a sign for Hitler's birthday. Twice he tried to commit suicide; he shows the scars on each wrist. In 1944 at Plaszow — the camp of *Schindler's List* — he marched 20 miles and collapsed in the snow, a frozen skeleton, left for dead. He assumed his wife Cyla — who, with her blonde hair and Aryan looks, had managed to disguise her identity in Germany — was dead. The story of how they found each other again is the stuff of fiction. "September 9 this year, I hope we will be alive, is our sixtieth wedding anniversary."

Wiesenthal was born in a shtetl in Buczacz in Galicia. But as a Jew, wanting to study architecture, young Szymon had to go to Prague. In the 1930s in Lvov, he edited a student magazine featuring his caricatures of Hitler.

His mother, Rosa, was taken from the ghetto in Lvov to a concentration camp in 1942, and never seen again. "Look, that was nothing special, hundreds of survivors had such backgrounds. Half the population of Lvov — 149,000 — were Jews: less than 500 survived. I am against the death sentence," he says. "A death sentence is only a half-minute."

What is extraordinary is his fearless tenacity, even when vilified by the World Jewish Council. "When I arrested my first Nazis, these people were not even a gleam in their father's eye. About Waldheim, I proposed an international commission of military historians, and their conclusion was the same

as mine. There was no evidence against him of personal involvement. So the WJC lose the case against Waldheim, and blame me. These are very bad losers. They believe they can kill my image with one television programme."

"Yes, Waldheim was in a Nazi student group, but this is nothing. They make from the dwarf an elephant! He was a well-informed officer, but had no possibility to make military orders. He was stupid in my opinion, and he lied. Why did he not say immediately: 'I saw everything, I know everything, but what could I do as a second lieutenant?'" Lord Weidenfeld, publisher of the Hella Pick biography and native of Vienna, concurs: when Weidenfeld was a student, and his father a prisoner, young Waldheim would smuggle lecture notes to him.

This month Wiesenthal goes to receive another honorary degree from Ben-Gurion University in Israel, where he will see his only daughter Paulinka, born in 1946.

"My daughter is religious, my grandchildren also. For me and my wife, after what happened to us, only the ethical part of religion remains. I am happy that I am a Jew, but after four years in camps, we have only questions to the Lord, and no answers. We are asking why? Why did this happen? From time to time I go to the synagogue as a manner of solidarity — but not to pray."

He finds the under-30s more receptive to Holocaust memories than his generation, or mine. "Grandparents keep silent: the master is taboo. Their fathers, the 50-year-olds, say: 'The Allies committed crimes too.' But the young ask questions, they travel, they are open: they want to know."

"I know my age, and I know that our office is the last office in the world. The fact that we can bring for trial people aged over 80 is a warning for the murderers of tomorrow. Everything in history is a repetition."

Later I walked past the house where W.H. Auden died in 1973, en route for Sacher's (the cafe Wiesenthal recommended) where Graham Greene wrote his outline for *The Third Man*. In Vienna, the past is everywhere — a muddy past, replete with complicity with Nazis. Too late, I remembered a joke Wiesenthal might enjoy, told me by the late Sam White, the great Paris correspondent:

"It runs like this. A: 'I can prove that you are anti-Semitic.' What would you say if I told you that all Jews and all photographers were to be exterminated?' B: 'Why would anyone want to exterminate photographers?' A: 'You see?'

## Why Diana loses to Robert Redford

Mary Ann Sieghart looks forward to the day when women are allowed to look their age

than mad cows, the single currency and yesterday's by-election put together. The Princess of Wales' thighs — are they or are they not dimply? — have produced a story that, in newspaper parlance, "has legs". It has run

More newsworthy would be to find the 34-year-old woman who does not have cellulite. She must exist, I suppose, somewhere in this country, but I have yet to meet her. And I have seen enough

naked women in health club changing rooms to have a fair idea of the average fit female body. Cellulite is simply one of those things that happens to female bodies long before middle age. And there is precious little that one can do to make it go away.

But what this fascination illustrates is the different way in which we treat women's and men's appearance. Women are expected to look perfect; men merely tolerable. Men's looks are commented upon only when they are conspicuously shabby: in politics, one might cite Michael Foot or Kenneth Clarke. And all prominent men — even the most handsome — are allowed to look scruffy off

Compare that with the treatment of Emma Thompson or Dame Judi Dench or Helen Mirren, or indeed any famous woman who is caught looking normal rather than drop-dead glamorous. Ms Thompson is not allowed to leave her house in a track-suit sans make-up without being pilloried by the press. Imagine the tyranny of having to take your face in foundation, do your hair, and slip into something slinky before you dare walk to the corner shop to buy your Sunday paper.

That is the trouble. The ideal against which women's looks are measured is that of the teenagers in the glossy magazines. Yet in fashion

photographs, the blemishes are airbrushed away, the legs can be lengthened using a computer, the clothes are draped just so, and subjected to no movement that might make them ride up or wrinkle. And the models who wear them are both ridiculously young and supernaturally shaped. This is not real life. If these girls had either cellulite or the figure of a normally slim woman, they would be prodigious.

I don't have much sympathy for the Princess of Wales herself. It is both silly and undignified to face the press pack in a pair of tiny Lycra shorts. She lives by her body, and wants to show off her legs. So she lays herself open to criticism. But what I find odd is that anyone could believe she didn't have cellulite like any other woman of her age. Only if you expected her to look like an airbrushed 16-year-old would you find such an imperfection surprising and therefore worthy of comment.

The only good thing to have come out of this is that women readers, far from being critical, will feel reassured that even princesses are subject to the normal processes of ageing.

But I do look forward to the day when women are allowed to look like women, not like Barbie dolls. Flaws are what make people interesting. We love Robert Redford, warts and all. Why not Diana?



Helen Mirren has a problem

Helen Mirren is an extremely talented 50-year-old actress, after whom some men still lust. Yes, women of 50 can still be sexy. She wore a see-through black shirt with a bra underneath for a premiere fashionable at the time. The Daily Mail cruelly awarded her a "Motion Dressed as Lamb" award. True, she did not look 16. But then she isn't 16.

That is the trouble. The ideal against which women's looks are measured is that of the teenagers in the glossy magazines. Yet in fashion

Opera for the masses? Times critic Rodney Milnes and opera impresario Raymond Gubbay engage in furious debate about the future of the art form

page 29

INSIDE SECTION

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## NEWS

**Israeli raid may delay peace talks**

■ At least five people were killed when Israeli helicopter gunships fired rockets into the southern suburbs of Beirut in a revenge attack against Hezbollah guerrillas, its first on the Lebanese capital for 14 years.

The attacks appear likely to delay the next stage of the Middle East peace process: agreement between Syria and Israel. The attacks may well give Damascus the excuse to delay the most difficult part of the process. .... Pages 1, 10

**Seven-year-old pilot crashes**

■ A seven-year-old girl who was attempting to fly across America was killed when her single-engined Cessna crashed. Jessica Dubroff died instantly when the plane hit the ground soon after it had taken off in bad weather in Cheyenne, Wyoming. Her father and an instructor also died. .... Page 1

**Liner impounded**

The Egyptian Government has impounded the Royal Viking Sun cruise liner as a bargaining counter in its dispute with Cunard over damage to a protected coral reef. .... Page 1

**Labour in centre**

Labour has now become the party of the centre, speaking for the mainstream majority. Tony Blair said in America as he sought to show that his party had transformed itself and was now ready for office. .... Pages 1, 9

**Royal separation**

Marina Mowatt, daughter of Princess Alexandra and Sir Angus Ogilvy and a cousin of the Queen, has separated from her husband after six years of marriage. .... Pages 1, 3

**Teacher plan**

Labour plans to attract middle-aged businessmen into teaching were criticised by the profession for failing to tackle an impending recruitment crisis. .... Page 2

**Cattle slaughter**

Plans to kill up to 30,000 cattle a week are to be announced by the Government next week in the first stage of a rescue package for the beef industry. .... Page 4

**Bank bomber hunt**

Lists of disgruntled customers and former staff were being checked by police in the search for the Barclays bomber. .... Page 5

**Vitamin experiment to cure crime**

■ Young offenders are to be given vitamin pills in a pilot project aimed at changing their anti-social behaviour. More than a hundred volunteers will take part in the six-month experiment at Aylesbury young offender institution which it is hoped will show that a change of diet can improve mental attitude and reduce aggression. .... Page 7



Vera Hubalek, a German student, trying on a costume from *Lucrezia Borgia* at a sale by the Royal Opera House yesterday

**BUSINESS**

**Rentokil battle:** BET rejected an increased takeover attempt from Rentokil which topped its old £1.9 billion bid with a £2.1 billion offer. .... Page 21

**Rail shares:** Investors in the £1.8 billion Railtrack flotation will be entitled to discounts on their second payments if they hold on to their shares for more than a year. .... Page 21

**House prices:** A steady rise has helped lift nearly 300,000 people out of negative equity in the first three months and there are signs that the housing market is continuing to improve. .... Page 21

**Markets:** The FTSE 100 fell 23.2 to 745. Sterling fell to 83.6 after falls from \$1.168 to \$1.517 and DM2.273 to DM2.2710. .... Page 24

**Airport deaths:** The FTSE 100 fell 23.2 to 745. Sterling fell to 83.6 after falls from \$1.168 to \$1.517 and DM2.273 to DM2.2710. .... Page 24

**Carbon from space**

Carbon found in a huge crater in Canada made by a meteorite nearly two billion years ago strengthens the idea that the chemicals of life arrived on Earth from outer space. .... Page 8

**UN condemned**

One of the first Britons to be evacuated from Monrovia condemned the United Nations for refusing to help her when her life was in danger. .... Page 11

**Smuggler attack**

At least 15 people were reported killed and more than 100 injured when a fire broke out in a flower shop at Düsseldorf International airport. .... Page 11

**Banker hunt**

A helicopter pursuit of a drug-running power boat racing for the Spanish coast ended when the helicopter crashed, killing a Civil Guard. The smugglers threw an oil into the tail rotor. .... Page 12

**EDUCATION**

**Rugby union:** Leading clubs appealed to the Rugby Football Union president, Bill Bishop, to break the deadlock between them and the governing body. .... Page 40

**Golf:** David Gilford, of England, held an early lead in the sixtieth Masters tournament in Augusta, only to slip back when he fourputted at the 16th. .... Page 29

**Football:** Mick McCarthy, the Republic of Ireland manager, has been banned from receiving FA Cup final tickets for 10 years after two were sold for nearly six times their face value last year. .... Page 40

**Rugby league:** Mike Ford, the former Great Britain scrum half, has been left out by Warrington and the club has agreed to transfer him to Wakefield Trinity. .... Page 36

**Pop on Friday:** David Sinclair on *Lilac Richie and Coedau Twins*; Caitlin Moran on the strange sounds of *Strangelove*. .... Page 31

**ARTS**

**Fight at the opera:** Music promoter Raymond Gubbay, who staged *La Bohème* at the Albert Hall, accuses *The Times*'s opera critic Rodney Milnes of elitism. Milnes responds with a robust attack on Gubbay's production standards. .... Page 29

**Menin party:** Public celebrations for Lord Menin's eightieth birthday, later this month, have begun with a British tour by the Warsaw Sinfonia, the orchestra that he founded and conducts. .... Page 29

**Night of Day:** A new musical based on the life and music of the Fifties singer Doris Day has opened in London. .... Page 30

**Pop on Friday:** David Sinclair on *Lilac Richie and Coedau Twins*; Caitlin Moran on the strange sounds of *Strangelove*. .... Page 31

**ENTERTAINMENT**

**Nez hunter:** Simon Wiesenthal, whose messianic mission is to ensure that no Nazi murderer will be allowed to die in peace, talks to Valerie Grove. .... Page 15

**Pop at home:** Michael Binyon describes life with a 21-year-old son en route to becoming a rock star. .... Page 14

**Sky-high ambition:** Norris McWhirter looks at the often tragic combination of pushy parents and precocious children. .... Page 14

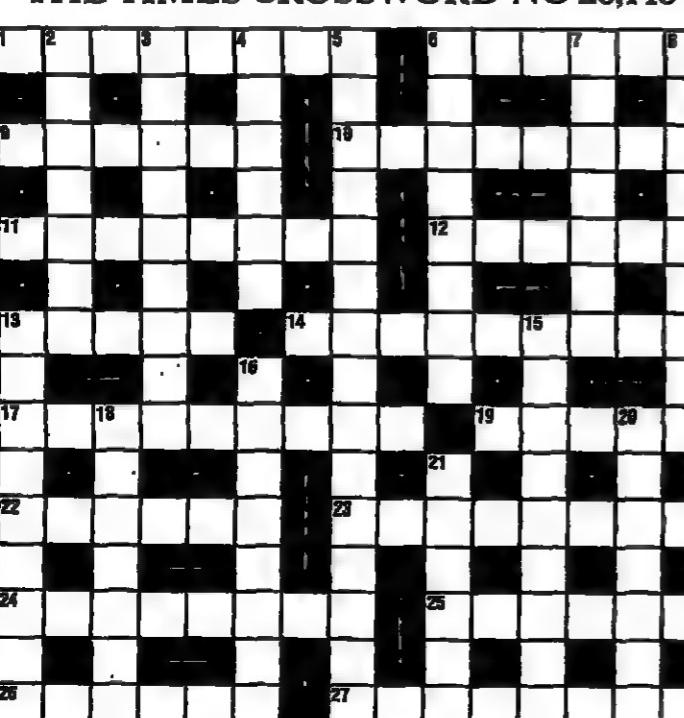
**The thighs have it:** Why have more column inches been devoted to the Princess of Wales's cellulite than to, say, Michael Heseltine's dandruff? .... Page 14

**PHILIP HOWARD**

From the beginning *The Times* has always covered the Classical Association, familiarly known as the Class Ass. It was even launched by a letter to the Editor from Professor J.P. Postgate of Cambridge. Its first meeting was allocated two full columns in our newspaper, which then had only eight columns for news. .... Page 16

**RICHARD WEST**

The collapse of Liberia brings to an end the old dream of generations of Africans exiled by slavery in America, of going back to live in the country of their ancestors. .... Page 16

**THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,140****ACROSS**

1 Hopeless cricket side – all out except this one (8).

6 Incentive for soldiers to get back in the wagon (6).

9 Puts up with the black pieces (6).

10 Dispose of little girl, creating lasting ill-will (8).

11 How abnormally one died within such a book (8).

12 Light reading often required for this science subject (6).

13 Stretch to see bird (5).

14 Copy original article about old record (9).

17 Like Coleridge's war-prophecying voices from Lancaster, possibly (9).

19 Take cocaine, or a small whisky, perhaps (5).

22 Defer case to bring in qualified doctor (6).

**Solution to Puzzle No 20,139**

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Times Two Crossword, page 40

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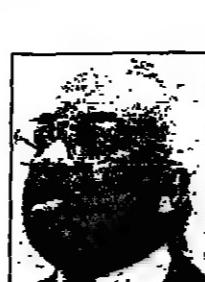
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Orkney & Shetland Islands ...  
Northern Ireland ...

Wind speeds & gusts: 10 mph, 20 mph, 30 mph, 40 mph, 50 mph, 60 mph, 70 mph, 80 mph, 90 mph, 100 mph, 110 mph, 120 mph, 130 mph, 140 mph, 150 mph, 160 mph, 170 mph, 180 mph, 190 mph, 200 mph, 210 mph, 220 mph, 230 mph, 240 mph, 250 mph, 260 mph, 270 mph, 280 mph, 290 mph, 300 mph, 310 mph, 320 mph, 330 mph, 340 mph, 350 mph, 360 mph, 370 mph, 380 mph, 390 mph, 400 mph, 410 mph, 420 mph, 430 mph, 440 mph, 450 mph, 460 mph, 470 mph, 480 mph, 490 mph, 500 mph, 510 mph, 520 mph, 530 mph, 540 mph, 550 mph, 560 mph, 570 mph, 580 mph, 590 mph, 600 mph, 610 mph, 620 mph, 630 mph, 640 mph, 650 mph, 660 mph, 670 mph, 680 mph, 690 mph, 700 mph, 710 mph, 720 mph, 730 mph, 740 mph, 750 mph, 760 mph, 770 mph, 780 mph, 790 mph, 800 mph, 810 mph, 820 mph, 830 mph, 840 mph, 850 mph, 860 mph, 870 mph, 880 mph, 890 mph, 900 mph, 910 mph, 920 mph, 930 mph, 940 mph, 950 mph, 960 mph, 970 mph, 980 mph, 990 mph, 1000 mph, 1010 mph, 1020 mph, 1030 mph, 1040 mph, 1050 mph, 1060 mph, 1070 mph, 1080 mph, 1090 mph, 1100 mph, 1110 mph, 1120 mph, 1130 mph, 1140 mph, 1150 mph, 1160 mph, 1170 mph, 1180 mph, 1190 mph, 1200 mph, 1210 mph, 1220 mph, 1230 mph, 1240 mph, 1250 mph, 1260 mph, 1270 mph, 1280 mph, 1290 mph, 1300 mph, 1310 mph, 1320 mph, 1330 mph, 1340 mph, 1350 mph, 1360 mph, 1370 mph, 1380 mph, 1390 mph, 1400 mph, 1410 mph, 1420 mph, 1430 mph, 1440 mph, 1450 mph, 1460 mph, 1470 mph, 1480 mph, 1490 mph, 1500 mph, 1510 mph, 1520 mph, 1530 mph, 1540 mph, 1550 mph, 1560 mph, 1570 mph, 1580 mph, 1590 mph, 1600 mph, 1610 mph, 1620 mph, 1630 mph, 1640 mph, 1650 mph, 1660 mph, 1670 mph, 1680 mph, 1690 mph, 1700 mph, 1710 mph, 1720 mph, 1730 mph, 1740 mph, 1750 mph, 1760 mph, 1770 mph, 1780 mph, 1790 mph, 1800 mph, 1810 mph, 1820 mph, 1830 mph, 1840 mph, 1850 mph, 1860 mph, 1870 mph, 1880 mph, 1890 mph, 1900 mph, 1910 mph, 1920 mph, 1930 mph, 1940 mph, 1950 mph, 1960 mph, 1970 mph, 1980 mph, 1990 mph, 2000 mph, 2010 mph, 2020 mph, 2030 mph, 2040 mph, 2050 mph, 2060 mph, 2070 mph, 2080 mph, 2090 mph, 2100 mph, 2110 mph, 2120 mph, 2130 mph, 2140 mph, 2150 mph, 2160 mph, 2170 mph, 2180 mph, 2190 mph, 2200 mph, 2210 mph, 2220 mph, 2230 mph, 2240 mph, 2250 mph, 2260 mph, 2270 mph, 2280 mph, 2290 mph, 2300 mph, 2310 mph, 2320 mph, 2330 mph, 2340 mph, 2350 mph, 2360 mph, 2370 mph, 2380 mph, 2390 mph, 2400 mph, 2410 mph, 2420 mph, 2430 mph, 2440 mph, 2450 mph, 2460 mph, 2470 mph, 2480 mph, 2490 mph, 2500 mph, 2510 mph, 2520 mph, 2530 mph, 2540 mph, 2550 mph, 2560 mph, 2570 mph, 2580 mph, 2590 mph, 2600 mph, 2610 mph, 2620 mph, 2630 mph, 2640 mph, 2650 mph, 2660 mph, 2670 mph, 2680 mph, 2690 mph, 2700 mph, 2710 mph, 2720 mph, 2730 mph, 2740 mph, 2750 mph, 2760 mph, 2770 mph, 2780 mph, 2790 mph, 2800 mph, 2810 mph, 2820 mph, 2830 mph, 2840 mph, 2850 mph, 2860 mph, 2870 mph, 2880 mph, 2890 mph, 2900 mph, 2910 mph, 2920 mph, 2930 mph, 2940 mph, 2950 mph, 2960 mph, 2970 mph, 2980 mph, 2990 mph, 3000 mph, 3010 mph, 3020 mph, 3030 mph, 3040 mph, 3050 mph, 3060 mph, 3070 mph, 3080 mph, 3090 mph, 3100 mph, 3110 mph, 3120 mph, 3130 mph, 3140 mph, 3150 mph, 3160 mph, 3170 mph, 3180 mph, 3190 mph, 3200 mph, 3210 mph, 3220 mph, 3230 mph, 3240 mph, 3250 mph, 3260 mph, 3270 mph, 3280 mph, 3290 mph, 3300 mph, 3310 mph, 3320 mph, 3330 mph, 3340 mph, 3350 mph, 3360 mph, 3370 mph, 3380 mph, 3390 mph, 3400 mph, 3410 mph, 3420 mph, 3430 mph, 3440 mph, 3450 mph, 3460 mph, 3470 mph, 3480 mph, 3490 mph, 3500 mph, 3510 mph, 3520 mph, 3530 mph, 3540 mph, 3550 mph, 3560 mph, 3570 mph, 3580 mph, 3590 mph, 3600 mph, 3610 mph, 3620 mph, 3630 mph, 3640 mph, 3650 mph, 3660 mph, 3670 mph, 3680 mph, 3690 mph, 3700 mph, 3710 mph, 3720 mph, 3730 mph, 3740 mph, 3750 mph, 3760 mph, 3770 mph, 3780 mph, 3790 mph, 3800 mph, 3810 mph, 3820 mph, 3830 mph, 3840 mph, 3850 mph, 3860 mph, 3870 mph, 3880 mph, 3890 mph, 3900 mph, 3910 mph, 3920 mph, 3930 mph, 3940 mph, 3950 mph, 3960 mph, 3970 mph, 3980 mph, 3990 mph, 4000 mph, 4010 mph, 4020 mph, 4030 mph, 4040 mph, 4050 mph, 4060 mph, 4070 mph, 4080 mph, 4090 mph, 4100 mph, 4110 mph, 4120 mph, 4130 mph, 4140 mph



## ARTS 29-31

Promoter and critic clash in the great Bohème debate



## EDUCATION 33

Have I got news for you, says Trevor McDonald



## SPORT 34-40

Australians trying to set new rules for life in London

JPI/1996

# THE TIMES



BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY APRIL 12 1996

## Debt trap eased by housing price rise

By KAREN ZAGOR

A STEADY rise in housing prices has helped to lift nearly 300,000 people out of negative equity in the first three months of this year, and there are signs that the housing market is continuing to improve, according to two reports released today.

Rob Thomas, building societies analyst at UBS Limited, said that there was a 22.7 per cent drop in households in negative equity to 964,000 in the first quarter, compared with the last quarter of 1995. This is not only the largest decline in three years, it is also the first time households in negative equity have fallen below 1 million since 1992. The number of households with insufficient equity to sell their home and buy another is still high, at 2.1 million.

Mr Thomas attributed the decline in negative equity largely to strong price gains that had benefited first-time buyers in East Anglia, the South West and Greater London, areas where the negative equity crisis was greatest.

Mr Thomas's analysis was based on figures from the Halifax Building Society's House Price Index for the first quarter of 1996. This showed a 1.2 per cent improvement, on a seasonally adjusted basis, in house prices in March. On an annual basis, prices were 1.7 per cent higher. House prices have now risen for eight months in succession.

Nine out of the 12 UK regions showed an improvement in prices in the first quarter, with the strongest gains in Northern Ireland, Greater London and Wales. In the East Midlands, however, prices fell 0.7 per cent in the three months and they also eased slightly in East Anglia. Prices in Scotland held steady. The Halifax is still expecting a 2 per cent increase in prices for the full year, but will review its forecast if the steady improvement continues.

Pennington, page 23

BY ERIC REGULY

BET, the business services company, yesterday rejected Rentokil's increased £2.1 billion takeover bid and predicted that it had a strong chance of thwarting the final offer.

However, institutional shareholders and City analysts said that the offer, increased from £1.9 billion, is probably sufficient to ensure success. One analyst said: "I would have thought that Rentokil has done enough to win the fight. BET has done very well to get this much out of Rentokil."

John Clark, BET's chief executive, said: "Their new bid is no knock-out punch. I think our chances are excellent and the fight has just begun. We are very confident of delivering greater value to our shareholders as an independent company."

Rentokil, which is majority-owned by Sophus Berendsen

of Denmark, said the new offer valued each BET share at 217.4p against the opening offer of 190.1p. It consists of nine new Rentokil shares, £10 in cash and 80p in special dividends for every 20 BET shares. The previous offer was nine new Rentokil shares and £8 in cash. There is a cash alternative of 202.5p per share, up from 179.5p.

Clive Thompson, chief executive of Rentokil, said: "We see this as a very full offer and, if anything, erring on the generous side."

BET argued that the new offer was mean. It noted that, excluding the special dividend, which works out to a net 4p per share, the bid is worth 209.8p, or only 1.1 per cent more than the closing price of BET shares on Wednesday.

BET shares rose less than 1p to 208.4p on volume of almost 40 million shares, while Rentokil lost 13p to 350p on the

expectation that its bid will succeed. Based on the 350p price, Rentokil's offer, including the special dividend, was worth 215.5p at the close of trading yesterday. Rentokil's offer goes unconditional on April 26.

The two companies will spend the next two weeks presenting their cases to their largest shareholders. BET's biggest investors are M&G Investment Management, with about 7 per cent. Threadneedle Asset Management, with about 5.5 per cent, and Prudential Portfolio Managers, with about 5 per cent.

Rentokil decided against boosting its offer by a significant amount on the basis of its track record. The company has grown its profits by more than 20 per cent a year since the early 1980s, an achievement that earned Mr Thompson the nickname "Mr 20 Per Cent".

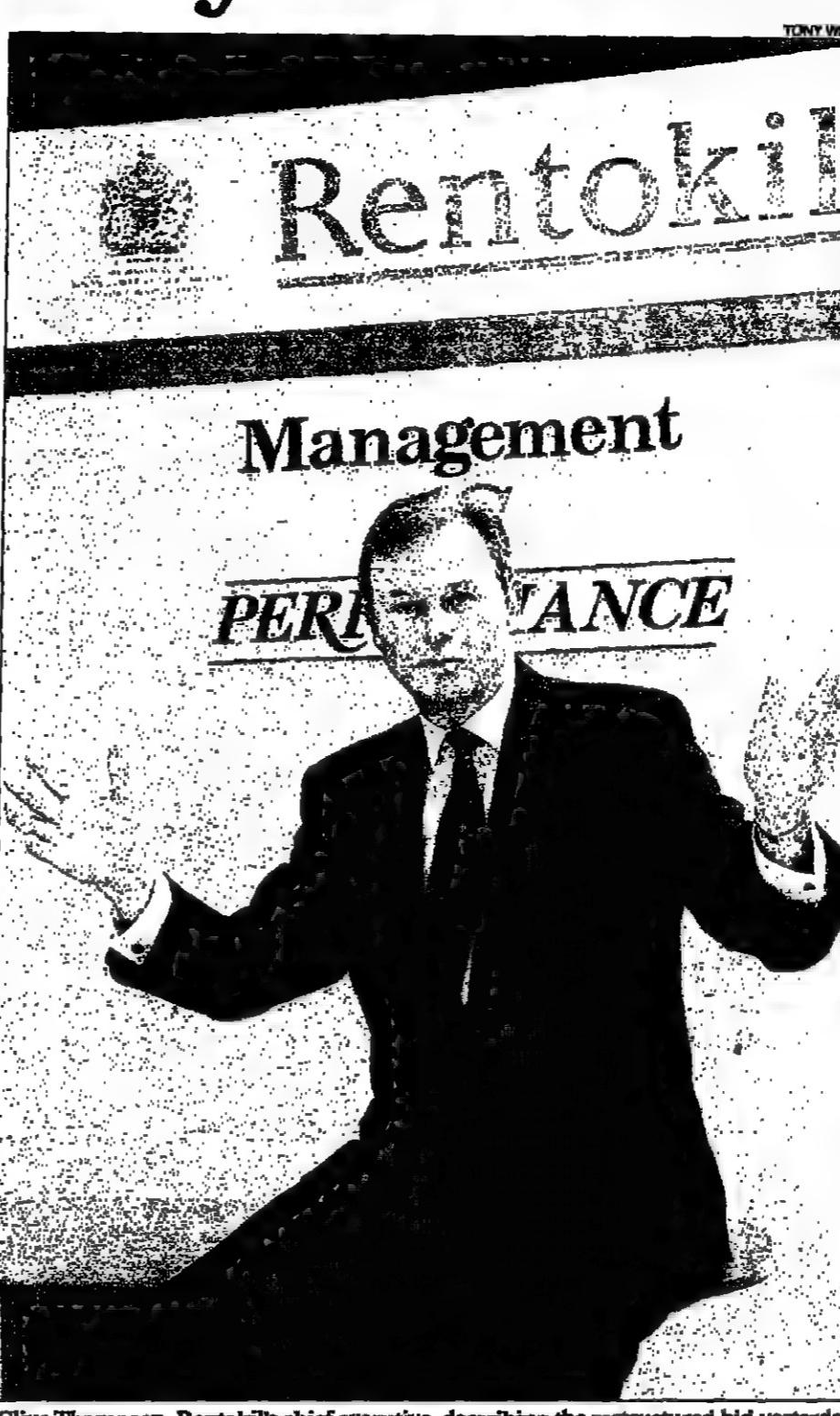
Rentokil said it would integrate the two companies' operations but would not reveal the expected cost savings. It did say, however, that the closure of BET's London headquarters would produce immediate savings of some £20 million.

Mr Thompson said redundancies would be largely limited to management and administration. "We are talking about tens or hundreds rather than thousands," he said.

Rentokil has 40,000 employees worldwide and BET about 100,000. If Rentokil acquires BET it will become one of Europe's largest employers.

Rentokil plans to merge the two groups' domestic security, cleaning, facilities management and personnel operations. In America, their cleaning and security businesses would be brought together and one of the head offices there would be closed.

Sophus Berendsen, which owns 51.7 per cent of Rentokil, yesterday reported a pre-tax profit of 2.26 billion Danish kroner (£257 million) for 1995, up 41 per cent.



Clive Thompson, Rentokil's chief executive, describing the restructured bid yesterday

## Bank of Ireland tipped for B&W

By ROBERT MILLER

THE Bank of Ireland has emerged as clear favourite to announce a takeover of Bristol & West, the UK's ninth-largest building society, on Monday morning.

Bristol & West, which has assets of £9 billion and more than one million savers and borrowers who would be likely to receive average bonus payments of between £750 and £1,000, yesterday declined its own corporate identity in the same way that Cheltenham & Gloucester had done since its takeover by Lloyds Bank last August.

Last night, a spokesman for the Bank of Ireland said: "We never comment on bid speculation or our acquisition policy."

City analysts had narrowed the field of potential bidders for Bristol & West to a handful of institutions such as Allied Irish Banks, which is Bank of Ireland's closest rival, and BAT, the tobacco to financial services group.

## Worries depress shares

By PHILIP PANGALOS

POLITICAL worries ahead of the Staffordshire South East by-election and Wall Street's latest slide combined to depress shares in London yesterday.

Against the background of a near 200-point, three-session slide in New York, the FT-SE 100 index remained in negative territory all day. A partial recovery, after a positive start on Wall Street, was short-lived in volatile US trading. Suggestions that the US Federal Reserve was worried about inflation upset the Treasury market. The FT-SE 100 ended at 3,744.2 down 23.2 points.

A variety of bid speculation stories, hostile bid developments and broker recommendations helped Sean volume swell to a healthy 889 million shares in after-hours trading.

Stock market, page 24

## Soros gives his blessing to Blair

FROM RICHARD THOMSON IN NEW YORK

GEORGE SOROS, the powerful Wall Street investor who helped to force Britain out of the European exchange-rate mechanism, has come out in support of Tony Blair after meeting him in New York.

After a private meeting with Mr Blair, Mr Soros said that the Labour leader was "very refreshing". Praising Mr Blair's pro-European stance, he said that a Labour election victory would not "influence a scare in international investors".

Bankers and investment managers who met Mr Blair at the Wall Street offices of Barclays de Zoete Wedd said that he had presented policies that US investors in Britain would favour.

"If I were British, I would vote for him in a nanosecond," said one of those who attended a meeting with him. "He has the whole package. He is enormously intelligent and has an absolutely coherent set

Tax row, page 9

of social, political and economic policies that fit with each other. This is one sophisticated politician."

Mr Blair is determined to allay the traditional suspicion among US businessmen of Labour governments in Britain. To most American bankers and businessmen who have heard Mr Blair's message, he sounds like a solid Tory whose mission is not to undo the "Thatcher Revolution" that was widely applauded in the US during the 1980s.

One businessman said: "He says he's left of centre, but he could be right at the centre of the Tory party."

Mr Blair's pro-European stance and his scepticism over the Social Chapter both scored points with US investors, as did his determination to maintain a firm monetary policy and his belief in free markets.

## THE DALVEY VOYAGER CLOCK

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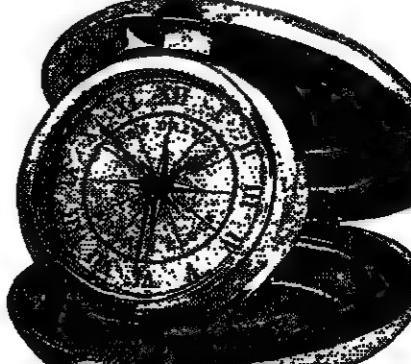
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## Alvis forges link to bid for 'battlefield taxi'

By ROSS TIEMAN AND PHILIP PANGALOS

ALVIS, which builds the Army's Scorpion and Stormer light tanks, has teamed up with Vickers and Thyssen-Henschel, of Germany, to bid for a £4 billion contract to build a new "battlefield taxi" for the armies of Britain, France and Germany.

Under a deal to be announced in the next few days, Vickers would build the main production run of personnel carriers. Alvis, Britain's leading specialist in light armoured vehicles, is expected to make specialist variants for the British Army.

Nick Prest, Alvis chairman, said Alvis's share in the programme would be significant. The collaboration is part of a wide-ranging shake-up in the European armoured vehicles industry stemming from Britain's decision to make the battlefield taxi. Known to the Ministry of Defence as MRAV, the first common procurement of the European Arms Agency.

GKN, which builds the warrior personnel carrier, has teamed up with three German partners, Krauss-Maffei, MaK and Wegmann. The winner of the bid to supply some 8,000 light, wheeled personnel carriers is then expected to team with Giat, the French tank-builder.

The deal is a breakthrough for Alvis. Despite its expertise, it had failed to secure a German partner to mount an independent bid.

Stock Market, page 24

The Scorpion tank has helped to build Alvis's reputation

## Sparkling debut for Cliveden

Cliveden, the luxury hotel operator, run at the former home of the Astor family, enjoyed a sparkling stock market debut. The shares ended their first day's trading with a 12p rise to 85p, against a 7p placing price. Volume amounted to 6.33 million shares traded. The hotel and country club business made profits of £1.86 million last year, on turnover of £6.4 million, with trading understood to be ahead this year. Cliveden, which has Viscount Astor as a non-executive director, was the home to Nancy Astor, the first woman MP and renowned hostess, from her marriage in 1905 into the Astor family.

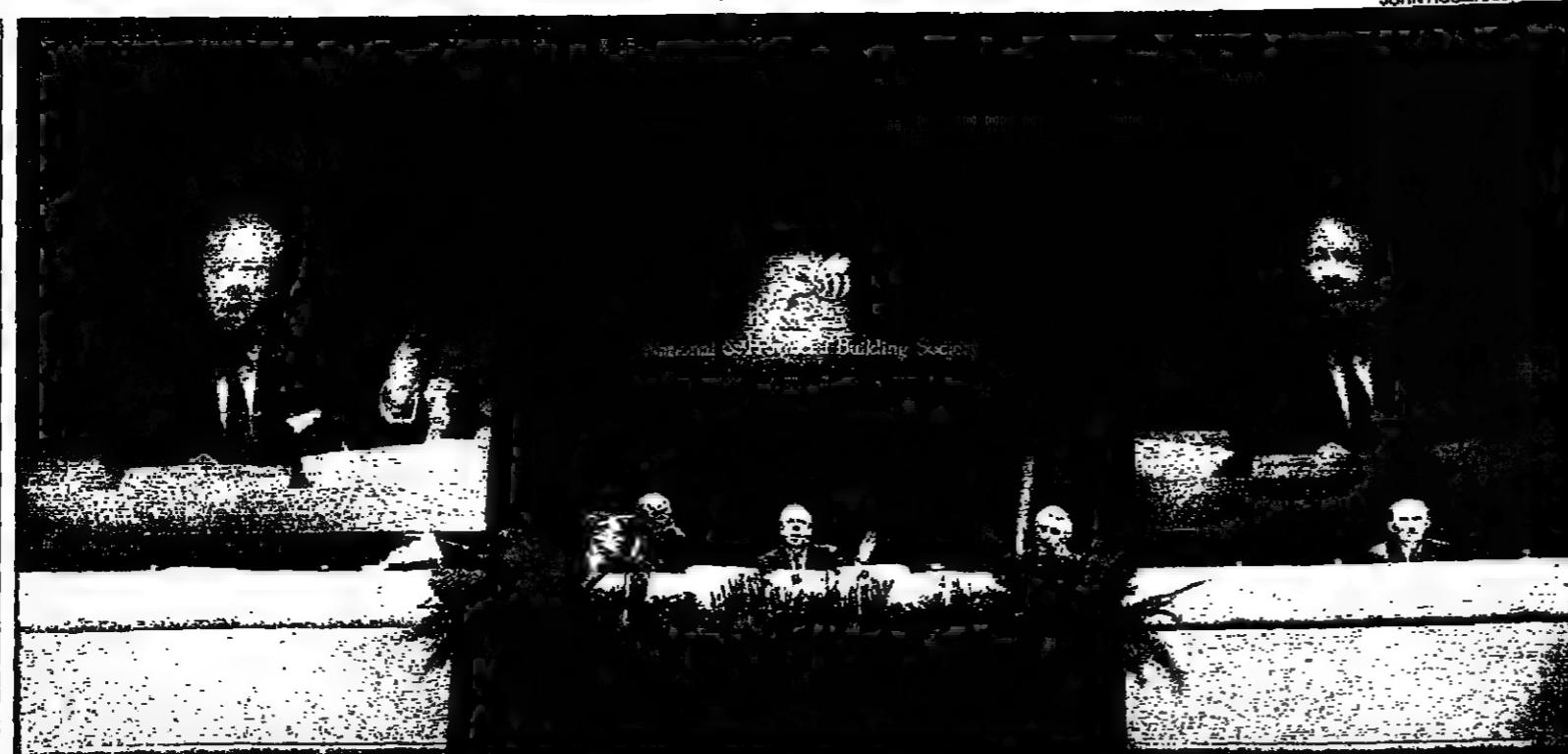
### Toye range extended

Toye and Company, maker of military uniforms, insignia and other regalia, is diversifying. A new range of enamelled boxes, cufflinks and ties are being offered in menswear shops and other retailers. In the year to December 31, the company returned to profit, making £26.558 before tax on sales up £1.1 million to £9.7 million, compared with a loss during 1994 of £180,744. The directors are recommending a dividend of 4p a share.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sales
Australia \$ ...	2.01	1.85
Austria Sch ...	16.98	15.45
Bahrain D ...	41.40	40.45
Canada \$ ...	2.157	1.957
Cyprus Cyp ...	0.754	0.650
Denmark Kr ...	8.37	8.57
Ecuador Ec ...	1.95	1.91
France Fr ...	5.13	7.48
Germany Dm ...	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr ...	387.00	382.00
Hong Kong \$ ...	12.32	12.32
Ireland P ...	1.02	0.94
Iraqi Shi ...	5.14	4.4500
Italy Lira ...	281.00	238.00
Japan Yen ...	100.00	100.00
Malta ...	0.551	0.536
Netherlands Gld ...	2.687	2.457
New Zealand \$ ...	2.37	2.15
Norway Kr ...	10.40	10.40
Portugal Esc ...	244.00	225.50
S Africa Rd ...	8.77	8.77
Spain Pta ...	197.00	184.00
Sweden Kr ...	10.50	10.50
Switzerland Fr ...	1.97	1.97
Turkey Lira ...	114.116	108.116
USA \$ ...	1.693	1.473

Rates for small denomination banknotes as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Details refer to travellers cheques. Rates at 28 days of trading yesterday



Society function: Lord Shuttleworth, the N&P chairman, centre, facing hostile questioning during yesterday's special meeting in Manchester

## N&P members give sweeping support to Abbey takeover

By SARA MCCONNELL

THE 1.4 million qualifying members of the National & Provincial Building Society yesterday voted overwhelmingly to approve the £1.3 billion takeover by Abbey National.

Members now stand to receive average bonuses of £1,000 each. Some members with balances of £50,000 or more who are borrowers will receive £4,751.

At a special meeting of N&P

members in Manchester, 96 per cent of savers who voted favoured the takeover. For the takeover to succeed, 75 per cent of eligible savers had to vote "yes". A majority of borrowers were also in favour.

Before the vote was announced, Lord Shuttleworth, the N&P chairman, and Alastair Lyons, chief executive, faced a hostile reception from the 490-strong audience at the Nymex Centre. Some members

attacked the N&P board for failing to achieve a better price.

One investor accused the board of "bribing members with their own money" and said a membership "swelled by carpetbaggers" had been "asked to dispose of community assets and of a valuable inheritance". He asked: "Where do we stop this disposal of our heritage?"

Other members called for

details of any "golden handshakes" the board would receive from Abbey National. Lord Shuttleworth denied this would happen.

Michael Hardern, of the campaign group Members for Conversion, who has campaigned for societies to convert to banks, congratulated the N&P but then claimed members were being robbed. N&P should have held out for £2 billion. He predicted: "In a

year's time we may find we have sold out for a song."

Many members paid tribute to N&P's branch staff. Lord Shuttleworth promised there would be no compulsory redundancies but an estimated 130 branches will be closed after the takeover.

The takeover must now be approved by the Building Societies Commission at a hearing on June 3. If it is confirmed, it will go ahead on August 5 and members will receive bonus payments at the beginning of September.

Savers who have had a share account with the society for less than two years will receive £500 in Abbey National shares. To qualify they must have had a share account with a balance of more than £100 between April 28, 1995, the date the takeover was announced, and December 31, 1995, the qualifying date.

Borrowers will get a fixed distribution of £500. Savers of more than two years' standing will get a payout of £750, which they can take in Abbey shares or cash. On top of this, they will get a bonus of 7 per cent of the balance of their account. The maximum eligible balance is £50,000.

## Railtrack loyalists get £120 cut

By OUR TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

RAIL industry insiders yesterday tipped Chris Stokes, the deputy head of the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising (Opraf), to succeed Roger Salmon, who resigned on Wednesday.

Although the Department of Transport appointed headhunters yesterday to find candidates for the £130,000-a-year job, there are expected to be few outside takers in what is being seen as a poisoned chalice.

Mr Stokes, 48, a lifelong

railwayman, has been working with Mr Salmon, who is leaving two years ahead of schedule, since the early days of Opraf and has won many plaudits for his work behind the scenes. He is seen as a safe pair of hands who has the advantage of detailed knowledge of how the highly complex franchising process works. He has also taken an increasingly public role in recent months, for example representing Opraf at the court cases that almost

scuppered privatisation before Christmas.

Roger Ford, editor of *Rail Privatisation News*, said: "He is a really good appointment who knows all the levers and can do the job. Chris will be good at nailing down all the details of franchising and there simply won't be time for someone new to play themselves in."

Mr Stokes joined British Rail in the late 1960s as a trainee and has since worked in a variety of jobs on the

railways, including stints at InterCity, London Midland, and Network SouthEast, where he was deputy managing director. He was the first manager at Birmingham International station.

Mr Stokes also has the presentational advantage of catching the train to work from his home in Leighton Buzzard, in contrast to Mr Salmon, who embarrassed the Government when it was revealed that he is chauffeur-driven to the office each day.

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Mr Stokes joined British Rail

JPI/12/96

Society speculators are the reluctant heroes  Will Coleman cut the mustard?  Cheap and dear directors

BANKING history is being rewritten. Never before, surely, have so many deposit-takers had to close their doors because to stop a run of money coming in. According to Adrian Coles, director general of the Building Societies Association "It is quite wrong for genuine customers to be inconvenienced by people seeking to make a quick buck". Sadly, the directors of most building societies seem unlikely to heed his words. They will go on trying to take their homely institutions into the corporate big-time, along with their pay.

Savers, who have not done well in recent years, are now accused of being "carpet-baggers" if they spread their money around the remaining societies in the hope of earning windfalls of cash or shares to make up for the deprivations of falling interest rates. But they are being sensible; it might be tasteful to refrain, but it would be financial stupid. Even if they guess wrong, they earn the normal return on their deposits.

Indeed, these patient investors, now derided as cheap speculators, provide a vital oil to lubricate the ambitions of the boards of societies and their would-be new owners. Without them, boards might not earn the large majority votes they need under building society rules to convert or transfer. It is the

traditional saver and borrower who tends to object, only to be trampled in the dash for cash.

The queues are inconvenient for small savers going about their business. And there should be some sympathy for small societies that have actually continued to try to fulfil the role of a non-profit mutual organisation. But most big societies have long abandoned such an approach in their desire for growth, maximum profit margins and a profit performance superior to their peers.

Mutuality is a state of mind. If managers do not operate in that spirit, then mutuality has no value. If profits are being maximised, then members might as well lay their hands on the capital and the dividends that profit-maximising operators should pay. They are only getting cash, however, because managers found that, otherwise, they could no longer meet their ambition for mergers and growth. Building societies originally grew and prospered, however, because they could offer something better to savers than did the banks, and offered bor-

rows a more understanding service that kept bad debts and interest rates down. Belatedly, a few of the bigger societies are returning to those roots. But it is not clear yet whether that is a change of heart or a short-term tactic to boost market share at the expense of margins while the housing market is thin.

Thanks to the cash windfall, most societies will turn the way their boards want. Once the false mutuals have gone, however, the remainder will probably repeat history, offering a better deal to savers and borrowers. From a low base, they should once again outgrow their big, shiny rivals.

#### Sir Ralph haunts House of Fraser

THE strange tale of House of Fraser, the store empire that Mohamed Al Fayed sold, minus Harrods, its jewel, took another twist yesterday. Brian McGowan, chairman of the Dickens & Jones, Army & Navy and DH Evans enterprise, ushered in a new chief executive. Enter John Coleman, the former managing

Mr Coleman spoke in a similar vein. He was "extremely pleased" to have been offered "one of the most exciting and prestigious roles" in UK retailing.

As, the City was not impressed. Tales had been rife that PDFM, House of Fraser's largest shareholder with a 26 per cent stake, wanted a "big hit" to join House of Fraser's board. David Dworkin, the American retail specialist who picked up £3 million from a short but successful sojourn at Storhouse, was reported to be PDFM's first choice. If not as successor to Coleman's predecessor Andrew Jennings - fired by McGowan early last month - then as successor to McGowan himself.

As House of Fraser's shares fell 4p to 175p, McGowan, defending Coleman's appointment, declared: "John had years at Burton where he was at Ralph Halpern's elbow. What better retail training could there be than that?" Sir Ralph undoubtedly possessed many skills but the City is hardly crying out for an encore of the Burton saga of the Eighties. Meanwhile,

House of Fraser's shares, 5p off their 1994 flotation price, would appear to be as overvalued now as they were then.

#### Can pay, will pay

HOW much do shareholders need to pay directors? Big investors will surely ask this more often as, one by one, the better companies convert to Greenbury rules and proudly display their directors' emoluments. Recent reports offer illuminating contrasts. At Cookson, the improving materials group, board pay totalled £5.9 million last year, not counting share options. That was 11 per cent of shareholders' dividends, which looks pricey.

Admittedly, the total was swelled by a side-effect of the Cadbury and Greenbury codes that their authors did not anticipate. Ray Sharpe, Cookson's number two in America, was paid £305,000 one-off compensation because his three-year notice period had to be cut when he joined the group board. Even so, Cookson directors are leaders in

the portly moggy stakes. Richard Oster, chief executive, got £1.7 million and most executive directors are Americans, paid on levels prevailing in the USA.

At British Aerospace, whose operations are roughly double the size of Cookson's, and whose market value is about two thirds bigger, the board rates about £2.6 million in all. Both these boards of directors have delivered strong recoveries from financial and management crises in the early 1990s, along with share price growth above the average. In BAe's case, however, much of the hard graft was done by the late John Cahill. Cookson now has the better résumé.

At T&N, the motor components group, sales and profits are similar to Cookson's, but the directors are paid only £1.8 million. T&N is worth less than half as much as Cookson and its shares have performed badly. This was, however, not due to hiring shoddy directors. It reflects the incidence of claims for harm from asbestos pre-dating today's board. Ignoring asbestos charges, T&N profits have grown as strongly as Cookson's. You could say the group is harder to manage with the asbestos albatross round its neck and unpredictable cash flow. But justice and hard work never did have much to do with pay.

## Bagging the windfalls

PENNINGTON



### BP promises bigger dividends

BP EXPECTS to increase its post-tax profit by \$1.5 billion over the next five years (Carl Mortished writes). The oil company told its shareholders that earnings would grow at the rate of 8 per cent a year over the period and promised them increased dividends.

John Browne, chief executive, told the annual meeting that BP aimed to pay out half of its underlying earnings in dividends every year.

Mr Browne emphasised that the targets were not based on changes in prices or margins. "We work on the basis of projects we now have. And we are also cautious about our ability to improve capital efficiency."

The company reckons that it can replace production from its existing projects over the next ten years with the rate of production increasing 4 to 5 per cent a year.

Tempus, page 23

## New Amec chief looks for overseas partners

BY PAUL DURMAN

THE new chief executive of Amec, the engineering and construction group that recently escaped a £360 million takeover bid from Kværner, wants to strengthen its international business through strategic partnerships.

Peter Mason, who joined Amec ten weeks ago, believes that the group has not made enough of its design and project management skills in international markets. He blamed this partly on weak marketing and partly on the group's operating structure, which he is subjecting to a strategic review.

Mr Mason highlighted the Amec-led joint venture to build Hong Kong's new airport terminal building as an example of projects the

group should be seeking. Amec's involvement in the £800 million contract has included Watson Steel's design of the terminal's steel roof, and the supply of all site plant and equipment.

Mr Mason envisages Amec providing the more profitable skills and technology, while its local partners supply labour and political nous.

Amec was reporting annual pre-tax profits of £15.9 million, broadly in line with the forecasts made during its defence of the bid from Kværner, the Norwegian ship-building to engineering group. Without bid defence costs of £4.1 million, Amec would have matched the £20 million it made in 1994.

Sir Alan Cockshaw, the chairman of Amec, yesterday gave up his executive responsibilities. He said that underlying operating profits were up 39 per cent at £40.9 million. However, settling the dispute over the Tiffany North Sea oil platform cost the company £1.1 million.

Mr Mason said Amec had decided to retain Fairclough Homes, the housebuilder, because a sale would not produce a sufficiently good price at a time when the housing market was improving.

Fairclough made a £2.6 million profit after a £2.8 million loss in 1994. The construction division lifted profits from £5.7 million to £11.9 million, while the mechanical and electrical divi-

sion improved its contribution from £12.9 million to £19.5 million.

Kværner retains a 26 per cent stake in Amec, bought for £50 million. Erlif Tonseth, Kværner's chief executive, said the Norwegian group would be happy to place its holding, after its acquisition of rival construction group Trafagar House, just completed. "The Amec shares have no strategic interest for us".

Amec said the outlook for 1996 remains encouraging, and it expects much better profits this year. Analysts at Merrill Lynch are forecasting £34 million.

Amec is paying a 15p final dividend to make a total of 3p.

Tempus, page 23

### House of Fraser shares fall as chief is chosen

HOUSE OF FRASER, the struggling department store group, has managed to fill the void left vacant by last month's sudden departure of its managing director. The Dickens & Jones and Army & Navy group has appointed John Coleman, a former Texas Homecare managing director, as chief executive (Sarah Bagnall writes).

The news received a lacklustre reception in the City, and the shares slumped 14p to 175p, below the 180p flotation price in March 1994. In recent months, the shares have risen sharply on bid speculation.

The announcement comes a week before HoF is expected to unveil a sharp drop in pre-tax profits from £28 million to £15 million in the year to January 30. The group forecast a decline in profits in January, in its fourth profit warning since flotation two years ago.

In March, Andrew Jennings resigned as managing director amid shareholder dissatisfaction over the group's performance.

Mr Coleman, 43, left Texas Homecare last year after Ladbrooke sold the DIY chain to Sainsbury. He has also spent ten years with Burton Group.

Montigny, 12 April 1996

### ANNOUNCEMENT

Rather than let rumours develop regarding the offers made to the Société Civile des Salariés (SCS) regarding the purchase of its shareholding in Financière Eurest, Sodexho clarifies its position as follows:

1

The management buy-out of EUREST France that was put in place in 1991 has been supported by SODEXHO SA, holding 33.34% of the share capital of Financière Eurest; Wagons-Lits, holding 33.3% of the shares; the management and associates owning 33.2% of the shares (but 57.88% of the voting rights); and by the venture capital fund, Epargne Développement, with 0.16% of the equity.

2

SODEXHO contested the sale in 1995 by Wagons-Lits to Compass of its 33.3% of the capital in Financière Eurest, notably in the context of the agreements made at the time of the management buy-out in 1991. SODEXHO has recently taken legal action against Compagnie Internationale des Wagons-Lits in this respect.

As a result, SODEXHO considers that the Board of Financière Eurest must reject in accordance with statutory authorisation procedures the offer made by Compass to purchase SCS's shareholding in Financière Eurest.

3

More than 5 years ago, SODEXHO decided not to make any alliance without the full support of its partner's existing management. Hence, over the last 9 months, SODEXHO management has held discussions with SCS management and together they have developed a solution which guarantees management independence and autonomy for the EUREST France business, thereby ensuring the perfect continuity of the current situation.

4

SODEXHO has offered a consideration of up to FF 694 million for the SCS's shareholding, dependant upon the future performance of EUREST France, but subject to a minimum payment of FF 592 million. This consideration is interest bearing at the average monthly money market rate (T4M) with effect from 1 April 1996.

5

SODEXHO has also provided to the SCS a bank guarantee of FF 694 million (value date 1 April 1996) as security of its intent to purchase in due course the SCS's interest in Financière Eurest. The SCS has made it known that certain of its own shareholders (both Eurest France managers and others) wish to sell their stakes immediately; to this end SODEXHO is ready to make an advance to the SCS on the consideration payable in due course for the acquisition of the latter's shareholding in Financière Eurest.

For further information, please contact:  
Céline PINCEMIN  
Corporate Vice-President, Communications  
Tel: (33.1) 30 85 72 14

Sodexho

We make a world of difference  
P.B. 100 - 78883 Saint-Quentin-Yvelines Cedex Tel: (1) 30 85 75 00

### ELECTRICITY NOTICE

BRITISH GAS TRADING LTD

SCHEDULE 2

Regulations 3(2) and 4(2)

PART 1

Form Of Application For A Private Electricity Supply Licence or Exemption.

1. Full name of applicant: British Gas Trading Limited.

2. Address of the applicant or, in the case of a body corporate, the registered or principal office: Rivermill House, 152 Grosvenor Road, London, SW1V 3JL.

3. Where the applicant is a Company, the full names of the current Directors and the Company's registered number: Roy Alan Gardner, Michael Richard Alexander, Graham John Bartlett. Company number: 3078711

4. Where a holding of 20 per cent or more of the shares (see Note 1) of an applicant is held by a body corporate or partnership or an unincorporated association carrying on a trade or business with or without a view to profit, the name(s) and address(es) of the holder(s) of such shares shall be provided: British Gas Trading Ltd is a wholly owned subsidiary of British Gas plc of the same registered office address.

5. Desired date from which licence is to take effect: 1st May 1996.

6. A sufficient description adequately specifying (see Note 2) the nature and siting of the premises intended to be supplied, separately identifying premises within the power bands specified in and to the extent provided by paragraph 7 below:

Any non-domestic premises with a maximum demand above 100kW in the authorised areas of the following Public Electricity Supply Companies: Eastern Group plc, East Midlands Electricity plc, London Electricity plc, Manweb plc, Midland Electricity plc, Northern Electricity plc, NORWEB plc, SEEBOARD plc, Southern Electricity plc, South Wales Electricity plc, South West Electricity plc, Yorkshire Electricity Group plc, Scottish Power plc, and Scottish Hydro-Electric plc.

7. (a) Subject to sub-paragraph (b) indicate the total number of premises intended to be supplied in each power band as shown in the table below, together with the aggregate energy forecast to be supplied and the aggregate estimated maximum demand (see Note 3) for each power band.

(b) If the date in paragraph 5 above is on or after 1st April 1994 then only Power Band A shall be completed and if the said date is on or after 1st April 1998 then this paragraph shall cease to have effect:

Power Band	Number of Premises	Energy Maximum demand (GWh)
(A) Not exceeding 0.1 MW	none	none
(B) Exceeding 0.1 MW but not exceeding 1.0 MW	N/A	N/A

8. A description of the system of electric lines and electrical plant by means of which the applicant intends to supply electricity, indicating which plant and lines are to be constructed and which are existing plant and lines, and further identifying any parts of that system which will not be owned or otherwise in the possession or control of the applicant.

COMPANIES

PHILIP PANGALOS

# Dairy sector nervous as slaughter decision nears

"MAD COW" disease continues to haunt food manufacturing stocks, with a number of shares in the spotlight yesterday after Credit Lyonnais Laing issued a detailed study on BSE.

In a note called *BSE: The enemy within*, CLL suggests that the Government has until the end of this month to conceive a slaughter programme of BSE-infected herds. CLL points out that the lifting of the export ban on UK beef and beef derived products is wholly contingent upon EU approval of this slaughter programme.

CLL says that Northern Unigate and Dalgety have the most significant exposure to a slaughter programme, with a prediction, based on CLL's most likely outcome of profits and earnings downgrades of about 10 per cent.

On a worst-case scenario, the earnings risk for dairy stocks could be 20 per cent, with dividend growth constrained.

CLL remains cautious on Unigate, down 4p to 410p, and Northern, 2p easier at 175p, and advises switching out of Dalgety, down 10p at 409p, and into Hillsdown, 1p stronger at 177p.

Traders elsewhere in the market remained cautious, but calm, against the background of a near-200 point three-session slide in New York and concern over the Government's dwindling majority. Another big overnight fall on Wall Street, where the Dow Jones average tumbled 74 points, saw shares in London start lower.

There was a partial recovery after a positive start on Wall Street on firm bonds, futures and better-than-expected March producer price data in the US. However, Wall Street resumed its volatile pattern and this combined with bond market weakness to depress sentiment in London.

The FT-SE 100 index ended 23.2 points lower at 3,744.2. Volume reached 840 million shares, boosted by trading of 82 million shares in Merton Abbey, the former Platinium, which returned from suspension at 8p.

There was hectic activity on the London International Financial and Futures Exchange (Liffe) after the launch of a Euroyen futures contract, linking up with the Tokyo International Financial Futures Exchange (Tiffe). Tiffe's



Hectic trading on Liffe as Euroyen futures were traded for the first time yesterday, linking up with Tokyo

Euroyen contract is the world's second largest money market futures contract.

The battle for control of BET, the business services group, hotted up after Rentokil, the environmental and industrial services group, upped the terms of its hostile bid, as expected, by £300 million to £2.1 billion. BET swiftly rejected the increased

Cable and Wireless, the telecoms group whose financial advisers are working on merger proposals with BT's advisers, recovered from an 8p deficit to end the day 3p lower at 526p. The recovery was prompted by substantial activity in the options pit, with reports of hectic trading in C&W's call options. BT lost 6p to 570p.

offer, although many analysts think that the improved offer is likely to win the day.

BET rose 3p to 208p on heavy turnover of 38.3 million shares as institutions sold in the market following the increased bid terms from Rentokil, down 15p to 350p. The increased offer involves nine new Rentokil shares, £10 in cash and 80p in BET

added 17p to 978p after brokers tipped the gold price to surge.

Housebuilders continued to attract strong support after the recent mortgage cuts, and a positive review of the sector from SBC Warburg. Barratt climbed 11p to 262p, Redrow 3p to 139p, Tay Homes 7p to 139p, Persimmon 7p to 227p, Wilson Bowden 12p to 433p,

and the market failed to hold on to the higher levels and ended near the day's lows.

The June long gilt future lost 23 ticks to 1040<sup>1/2</sup>, on volume of 51,000 contracts traded. Among conventional stocks, longer-dated issues fared worse, with losses extending to 12%, while shorts and index-linked stocks fell by about 1%.

□ **GILI-EDGE:** The market opened lower after weaker overnight US Treasuries and lower Bunds. There was a partial recovery on the release of the latest US economic data, but the market failed to hold on to the higher levels and ended near the day's lows.

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Cliveden, the luxury hotel operator, made a sparkling debut with a 12p rise to 85p, against a 73p placing price.

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The June long gilt future lost

23 ticks to 104

THE  
TIMESCITY  
DIARYArresting sight  
for Sir Robin

NAKED shareholders paraded themselves in front of Sir Robin Lobb and at the first Lloyds TSB annual meeting yesterday, protesting at the bank's stance on Third World debt.

At least two arrests were made after the "ethical streak" and several protesters were ejected from the meeting held at Edinburgh's new international conference centre.

The 30 protesters belonged to the Lloyds and Midland Boycott (LAMB), the same gang that tied itself to the railings at Lloyd's annual meeting last year. "We've tried polite questions at previous meetings but it doesn't work," panted one protestor. Spurned Sir Robin says LAMB is ignoring his invitations to talk.

**PETER MASON'S** first two months as chief executive of the construction group Amer have done wonders for his frequent-flier miles. He has spent 80 hours in the air, flown 30,000 miles, and seen Singapore in 24 hours while visiting group operations around the world.

## Where's Peter?

THE picturesque home of Peter Middleton on the edge of the North York Moors is the cause of much concern among locals. The former Lloyd's chief executive, who quit in a hurry six months ago to become a £1 million-a-year executive at Salomon Brothers, has not been seen at his cottage for months. The 56-year-old former monk was last spotted with Lucy Robers, his girlfriend, fixing up Old School House, which nestles next to the ancient church of St Chad's. Locals are keeping vigil on his Honda 250cc motorcycle, which was left outside in the winter.



**Real-time love**  
CITY whiz-kids across the UK are making room in their diaries for a date with Julia Carling. Exulting the virtues of CityScreen, the real-time magazine, at a presentation to marketers last night, the loveless blonde made a desperate plea to brokers and traders. "Who reads CityScreen?" posed Will Carling's former love. "Young, wealthy, single males. Sounds interesting ... maybe a potential date for my diary."

## Heep of trouble

ANOTHER apparent blow to the US tobacco industry has come after an ex-lover seems to have handed over wads of documents concerning Philip Morris. Hatty Heep, an interior decorator, kept the documents in her basement on behalf of her former fiance, a Philip Morris researcher. When the relationship turned sour, Ms Heep sought revenge, to the delight of lawyers hostile to Philip Morris.

**SLOUGH ESTATES**, the property group, is handing out ghoulish invitations to the demolition of a disused bus maintenance garage in Elstree today. The million square foot building adjacent to the M1, which was originally intended to be the final extension of the Northern Line, is to be turned into a business park.



## 'Ins' and 'outs' will decide destiny of monetary union

George Brock  
charts shifts  
in the nature  
of the debate  
over the euro

**T**he Chancellor of the Exchequer flies into the stone-walled city of Verona today for what is billed as, at best, a bruising encounter and at worst an ambush. Yet it is a fair bet that Kenneth Clarke will be his usual insouciant self when he touches down.

His unconcern will not only reflect his renowned and jovial indifference to any claim that crisis is coming from whatever quarter. Mr Clarke is not only congenitally immune to crisis fever, but knows that he holds enough cards to prevent Britain being forced to join a revamped exchange-rate mechanism any time soon. And he arrives in Verona with the Cabinet rumpus over a referendum on monetary union behind him.

Most importantly, Europe's debate about the single currency has shifted since the beginning of this year and will go on doing so for another two years. Businessmen may urge politicians to clarify unresolved questions about how a monetary union might work, but neither the EU nor Chancellor Helmut Kohl works that way. Herr Kohl, who remains the master of the single currency game, is happy to wait for the debaters to exhaust themselves. He discreetly discourages frontal opposition to monetary union inside the German political establishment but says little in public, influencing events from the sidelines.

Last autumn, public and private speculation that the start of the single currency would have to be delayed beyond January 1999 gained ground. Delay seemed the only solution if France's high public deficit blocked its entry to the single currency.

But in the new year the climate changed. Germany's finance minister, Theo Waigel, revealed that his own country's public debt fell well outside the 3 per cent of GDP required by the Maastricht treaty. Although Herr Waigel promised that Germany's 3.6 per cent would be brought into line by the end of 1997, markets began to suppose that both Germany and France might have to bend the rules to join each other in the euro-zone.

The Maastricht treaty has always allowed governments to fudge the debt rules, but only recently have German politicians begun to draw attention to the fact. "All texts are open to interpretation, and Maastricht is no exception," Karl Lamers, the influential Christian Democrat, said two months ago.

With jobs leaking out of the German economy at an alarming rate, German industrialists piled on pressure for a lower mark. After a pivotal meeting in Munich in January with the increasingly ambitious and powerful Herr Waigel, Herr Kohl began gently, to try to talk the mark down (see chart). So far, and assisted by a strengthening dollar, the tactic has worked.

Moreover, market pundits are starting to sound more



Key figures: Theo Waigel, German finance minister, and Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor

optimistic about monetary union in spite of weak growth in the key economies. President Jacques Chirac of France has not wobbled; Herr Kohl stays firm. "EMU will be first and foremost an act of political will," Michele Debonneuil, chief economist at Banque Indosuez, said this week. That bank's own research suggests that France's debt-to-GDP percentage will be 3.7 in 1997 and Germany's 3.2. The market currently believes that in the spring of 1998 EU leaders will not let such numbers stand in their way. Last month's regional elections in Germany confirmed that Herr Kohl will still be around to lead the leaders.

So far as persuading the markets goes, Herr Kohl's project of economic and monetary unification stands in much better shape than six months ago. The problem with this rosy scenario lies in persuading the voters.

Confident as they may claim to be about the single currency's take-off, Herr Kohl and his ministers postponed an expensive propaganda campaign for the euro in January because important local elections were in the offing. Between 50 and 60 per cent of Germans remain opposed to

the euro and polls find opponents also outnumbering enthusiasts in Britain, Austria, Sweden, Finland and Denmark. The euro quite simply lacks legitimacy.

To succeed, Herr Kohl and President Chirac have to jump at least four obstacles:

**F**irst, finding a big enough "core" of states both wanting the euro and with deficits low enough to pass muster. Deficit ratios below 4 per cent seem to be acceptable to governments — although fudging on that scale may well scare German voters who go to the polls in a general election in 1998. But "manageable" overshoots are by no means guaranteed. British Treasury forecasts suggest that the French deficit ratio may be above 4 per cent at the end of 1997. The annual report of the European Monetary Institute, due in November, will be the key indicator of whether enough countries can come close enough.

Secondly, quelling French doubts about EMU and jobs. French public opinion remains roughly 2:1 in favour of the single currency. President Chirac, who is not even committed to such a thing, would have little to fear from an EMU referendum if he held one now. The President's problem is his own credibility gap: he keeps making precise pledges about the jobs France will create and nobody believes he can deliver. Not all his welfare cuts have yet bitten and fresh opposition is still appearing: France's doctors have called a strike for later this month.

Over the summer, the Government will have to draft a budget for 1997, which will have to be even more austere — the last one brought the country to a halt just before Christmas.

Thirdly, quelling German doubts. Herr Kohl will probably try to brush aside economic fears and tell his voters that they should swap the mark for the euro to prove that Germans remain good Europeans. But the Chancellor has also adopted a new strategy of softening the EMU criteria and the mark. As an influential member of the Bundesbank council pointed out privately last month, that implies a monetary union which does not make price stability its priority. The Maastricht treaty says that price stability must be the European Central Bank's (ECB) key target.

Fourthly, avoiding an EU split in spite of dire predictions here that Mr Clarke will be faced with demands that he join a new ERM "or else," neither Germany nor France is yet determined to create a single currency at the price of permanently dividing the EU. No one has yet succeeded in designing a convincing, compulsory and inclusive system for preventing currencies outside the single currency from diverging too far from the euro. British ministers may have a high profile in the arguments, but fears that "out" countries will deviate against the euro are essentially — for France and Germany — the fear of Spanish or Italian devaluation. The sanctions

Feeling smug  
over Lloyd's

From R.V.Munden

Sir, For the past few years your letters section has been swelled by comments about Lloyd's of London. Correspondence on this subject has accused, defended, expressed outrage, shown quiet resignation, spluttered, analysed and pleaded.

I cannot recall, though, any letters which have been smug and I thought I should fill this void.

In 1983 I was invited to become a name and, because I knew little about the market, I asked to meet a selection of active participants in order to gain some understanding of the people to whom I should entrust my future financial security.

This request was greeted with surprise but appropriate arrangements were made. It took only a few discussions for me to develop strong reservations about becoming involved.

The accounting system and financial controls of the brokers I met seemed such that I never did understand how auditors were persuaded to sign off their accounts. Under-

## Apprenticeships for craftsmen of the next decade

From Mr James Paice, MP

Sir, The plea from Mr T.P. Hardley (Business Letters, March 28) for "a return to the rigours of a formal system of apprenticeship" is well timed. The Government launched Modern Apprenticeships nationwide in September of last year, and only recently received enthusiastic endorsement from Sir Ron Dearing in his report on the education and training of 16-19 year-olds.

Modern Apprenticeships are based on frameworks designed by employers. They take the best aspects from the old-style apprenticeships and combine them with modern qualifications and learning

methods. They are not about time serving. They offer an equal alternative, via the work-based route, to a qualification that can lead on to higher education — if the apprentice wishes. Modern Apprenticeships will provide highly trained craftsmen and women, technicians and junior managers who are better prepared and motivated to meet the challenges of tomorrow.

Modern Apprenticeships cover 55 industrial and commercial sectors, including those that traditional apprenticeships never covered, such as information technology and business administration. All the signs are that young

writers, those Masters of the Universe at whose feet brokers seemed to worship, appeared to assess risks almost entirely by reference to the past although a few held up dampened forefingers to try to detect any winds of change which might be blowing.

When my reservations became apparent it was suggested that, if I agreed to increase my proposed participation, I might be offered a position on

people and employers are very enthusiastic about the initiative, which offers a long-term commitment to high-level training.

Modern Apprenticeships are a serious reform of training in this country. They will have far-reaching implications for the way we meet the skill needs in the next decade. The Government has much sympathy with Mr Hardley's views — the solutions he calls for are already in place.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES PAICE, MP  
Parliamentary  
Under-Secretary of State,  
Department for Education  
and Employment,  
Great Smith Street, SW1.

a "baby syndicate". It was explained that such syndicates were run for the benefit of insiders and special friends; they were virtually risk-free and highly profitable. I would be extremely privileged, if a non-working name, to give such an opportunity.

This, for me, was the clincher and I politely declined to become a name.

I did not think I was being particularly clever at the time,

merely observing basic business practices and standards.

I accept that my decision was based on only a little learning and I am aware it is reprehensible for me to feel smug about it. I just can't help it, though.

Yours faithfully,  
R.V. MUNDEN,  
Lower Woodbrook,  
Linton,  
Taunton,  
Somerset.

writers, those Masters of the Universe at whose feet brokers seemed to worship, appeared to assess risks almost entirely by reference to the past although a few held up dampened forefingers to try to detect any winds of change which might be blowing.

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## Inscrutable origin of riches from China

Tom Walker in Hong Kong on banks' fears of becoming tainted

against devaluers being demanded by some French industrialists would spell the destruction of the single European market and perhaps of the Union itself. Global markets would react accordingly.

Hans Tietmeyer's suggestion yesterday that the head of a future ECB be encouraged to "persuade" weakening currencies to manage devaluation promptly may be economically logical but could only increase political tensions between "ins" and "outs". Dr Tietmeyer, the most likely candidate to head the ECB, cannot seriously believe that devaluation guidance from what would be one of the most powerful and least accountable central banks will be acceptable in Britain, Spain, Portugal or Ireland.

Great as these problems are, continental political classes and financial markets still feel that fear of chaos, which would be triggered by any hesitation over monetary union, will outweigh the doubts. Attention is shifting again, this time towards how a monetary union will work once established.

**G**erman bankers have been ready to contemplate easing entry criteria for borderline states on the understanding that economies with a record of misbehaviour will not be allowed to reoffend. But discussions over Herr Waigel's "stability pact" have all but emptied his scheme of meaning. Few governments are willing to support automatic penalties — Herr Waigel suggested hefty fines — for running deficits. The effect of this rejection inside Germany has yet to be seen.

None of the increasingly elaborate preparations for the launch of the euro have answered the question about whether the new money will divide or unite the existing EU.

Monetary union remains at heart a political device to reinforce the link between France and Germany. But if a Franco-German-Benelux currency is launched in a way that makes clear that Spain, Italy and eastern Europe cannot join for a long time, the EU will be transformed into something far more rigidly divided than the querulous, higgledy-piggledy collective of today.

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British ministers may have a high profile in the arguments, but fears that "out" countries will deviate against the euro are essentially — for France and Germany — the fear of Spanish or Italian devaluation. The sanctions

minimum net worth of \$1 million, although to be particularly attractive to the bank, liquid assets of \$5 million are nearer the mark. Assets managed by Coutts's two Asian offices, in Hong Kong and Singapore, are \$500 million, with total assets managed for Asian clients exceeding \$2 billion.

Coutts is seen as a small player in the territory, and few of rivals divulge similar comparative details. All, however, protest innocence.

"It is a little bit tricky here in Asia because people don't like to show who they are, but that information is treated very confidentially and it has resulted in us never really ever having had any problems with dirty money," said Knut Remertz, of Banque Générale du Luxembourg.

Max Gunther, regional manager with the Credit Suisse private banking unit for East Asia, says: "It doesn't matter where the money is booked, we will apply rigid screening of clients here, and whether we refer to Zurich or London or Luxembourg, we do the due diligence here. All the money we give out, whatever the location, is clean — we don't have first-rated offshore centres, second-rated and so on — it's just clean

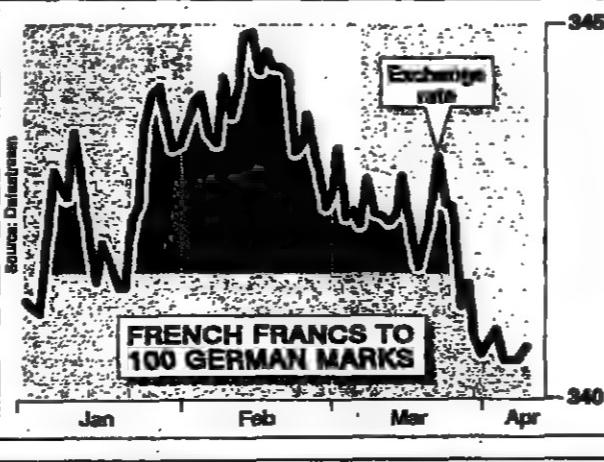
money. If you want to be in private banking in the long run, there's only one approach — the professional approach."

Observers of the sector admit that Mr Went's remarks touched a nerve. "The threat of money laundering is very powerful in Hong Kong," said a James Capel analyst. "We are very worried about being tainted."

The problem for Hong Kong, another analyst said, is the need to find clients in an increasingly competitive market. "The place is grossly overbanked," he said. "Some of the smaller Swiss banks are hungry for business — so money is booked into Geneva and Hong Kong is bypassed altogether. It's all lost in a series of code numbers."

Tracing any client would be nearly impossible, he said, and even banking experts steeped in the ways of the territory's unspoken financial freemasonry would be unaware of the conduits for Chinese money, he says, "are very smart."

A Coutts client must have



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# Ashanti continues expansion with Australian miner

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

**ASHANTI GOLDFIELDS**, the Ghanaian mining company in which Lonrho holds a large stake, has continued its buying spree with the acquisition of Australian-listed Golden Shamrock Mines for £290 million.

It is Ashanti's third acquisition since December and the largest so far. It underlines the determination of the company, which is in the sights of Anglo American Corporation, to remain independent.

CSM's most important asset is its 70 per cent holding in the Siguiri

goldmine in Guinea where a feasibility study, published last month, identified 2.37 million ounces of gold. The company, which is also listed in Toronto, also has a 70 per cent share in the Idapriem goldmine in Ghana.

Ashanti last week made a £65 million agreed offer for International Gold Resources of Toronto. In December it bought Cluff Resources, the London-listed gold company with operations in Africa, for £80 million.

The latest deal is being arranged as a share-swap merger. GSM shareholders will receive one Ashanti ordinary share for every 225 GSM shares, which are valued at Aus\$1.37 (70p). GSM's board supports the merger which Australian courts will have to clear and which its shareholders will then vote on.

Ashanti intends to integrate GSM's West African assets into its own operations. GSM's Australian assets – a coppermine and gold and gold exploration interests – will be sold off.

Analysts welcomed the deal and said that the price was in line with Ashanti's other acquisitions.

Ashanti's advisers said that the GSM had been high on its "shopping list" and that the results of the Siguiri feasibility study had prompted the offer. Analysts said that Ashanti's rapid expansion could make it appear less digestible and discourage the attention of South Africa's Anglo American Corporation.

The South African company recently acquired 6 per cent of Lonrho, which owns 37 per cent of Ashanti, from Dieter Bock, Lonrho's chief executive. Mr Bock is to demerge the group's mining interests. Anglo American has first right of refusal on Mr Bock's remaining 18 per cent of Lonrho.

Tempus, page 24

## MAM bids £93m for healthcare group

By ERIC REGULY

THE private equity arm of Mercury Asset Management (MAM) yesterday offered to buy Priory Hospitals Group, Britain's largest private-sector provider of psychiatric services, for £93 million in cash. It is Mercury's first foray into the healthcare field.

Community Psychiatric Centers of America, Priory's owner, said other potential buyers would not be excluded.

Mercury got underway. Founded in 1980, Priory has 15 hospitals and adolescent residential units, with about 700 beds. The company is profitable, though no financial details were available.

Mercury wants to buy Priory because it is the market leader and has strong growth prospects. It plans to float the company within five years.

Tony Wardell watches as a model applies products that Swallowfield hopes to market under its own brand name

## Swallowfield buoyed by exports

By MARTIN BARROW

**SWALLOWFIELD**, the contract manufacturer of branded and private label aerosols and cosmetics, said exports helped to drive profits to a new high in 1995, offsetting the impact of a difficult UK consumer market.

However, the company's Belgian subsidiary continued to trade at a loss despite a number of measures taken to restore profitability.

Pre-tax profits rose to £2.69 million

from £2.56 million on sales that advanced to £37 million from £34.87 million. The company said new contracts were secured in Japan and Australia and non-UK sales now account for 27 per cent of total sales.

Swallowfield, which was formed through a buyout from Cadbury-Schweppes 10 years ago, embraces the companies of Aerosols International, Cosmetics Plus and Parbel, a Belgian

manufacturer. The group's management structure is being centralised to market the Swallowfield brand in preference to the separate companies. The company, whose managing director is Tony Wardell, believes Parbel can be restored to profit by the end of the current year.

Earnings rose to 13.8p a share from 13.5p. There is a final dividend of 3.8p a share, due May 31, lifting the total to 16.5p from 6.2p. The shares rose 3p to 164p.

## For your company golf day... ...it's the business



The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge is open to any company, organisation, partnership, association or body (not golf society) based in the British Isles, which holds a business or company golf day in which 12 or more amateur players take part.

### How to participate

- All you have to do is take part in the Challenge to register your golf day, using the form (right) – then on the day itself, submit the results.
- Gently send off the completed form, together with the registration fee of £250 plus VAT as soon as possible, prior to your golf day and no later than 10th September 1996.
- The top four scoring golfers in your golf day's individual Standard competition – including up to three guests (your clients) – will become eligible to represent your company (as a team) at one of the twelve Regional Finals in October this year.
- Your team of four will, if their aggregate Standard score is among the top 25 aggregate scores in your region, qualify for a regional final.
- The winning company from each of the twelve regions will compete in the national final at Hyatt La Manga Club Resort in Spain in November. To be filmed for a Sky TV broadcast.
- Golf days registered after 10th September or played after 27th September will be entered for the 1997 Challenge.

### Benefits of Entry

- Your golf day featured in The Times' 'Corporate golf days' feature list.
- Your golf day results featured in The Times' 'golf day results' column.
- A set of four personalised event trophies for your golf day winners.
- Copies of The Times delivered to the golf club on the morning of your golf day.
- Complementary copies of the event newsletter on your golf day.
- A golf day management software program for use on your golf day.
- Complementary copy of the Official event magazine - 'The Business Golfer'.
- A chance for your company golf day winners to qualify as a team to play in a Regional Final.
- The opportunity, should they win the Regional Final, to play in the National Final to be held in November 1996, at The Hyatt La Manga Club in Spain and filmed for a Sky TV broadcast.
- The winners of the National Final will be invited to participate in the World Corporate Golf Challenge.
- Other promotional opportunities for the golf day organisers.

### Rules and Regulations

The competition is approved by the R&A for payment of expenses.  
\*Rate + 8 Exc. 7 VAT + 4%

A full set of rules and conditions will be sent with acknowledgement of receipt of the registration form, or you may obtain a copy or further information by contacting the Challenge organisers etc.

0171 436 3415 or  
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Company address.....	.....
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Facsimile.....	.....
E-mail.....	.....
Name of company representative (to whom all correspondence off be sent). We be holding a golf day at.....	.....
Golf Club.....	.....
Address.....	.....
County.....	.....
.....	.....
.....	.....
On.....	.....
At the venue and date of your golf day. Have yet to be finalise please leave blank and inform us as soon as it is confirmed.	.....

### Trophy Requirements

I accept the terms and conditions for company registration and enclose a cheque for £176.25 Inc. VAT, made payable to The Times MeesPierson C.C.C. Please send the completed form to The Times MeesPierson Corporate Golf Challenge, PO Box 4, Harpenden, Hertfordshire AL5 3DL. A VAT invoice will be sent with acknowledgement.

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## Four-year high for oil prices

OIL prices rose to a four-and-a-half year high of \$22.66 a barrel yesterday as a rally picked up steam after a brief pause for breath. Analysts say crude could rise further as buyers in the West scramble to rebuild depleted refined oil product inventories.

While oil product prices in particular petrol, might stay firm for longer, crude would probably start to reverse as summer approaches and extra supplies come onstream.

After rising 63 cents yesterday, the widely traded Brent crude has recorded an overall gain of more than \$6 since the end of January.

## JP Morgan jumps 72% in first quarter

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN NEW YORK

J P MORGAN, the US banking group, reported net income of \$439 million in the first quarter this year, a surge of 72 per cent over the same period in 1995.

Earnings per share for the quarter were \$2.13, against \$1.27 a year ago.

But first-quarter earnings last year included an after-tax charge of \$33 million, or 17 cents a share, related primarily to severance costs.

Douglas Warner, chairman, said: "Growing opportunities to put J P Morgan's worldwide capabilities to work for clients led to strong

first-quarter results." Market-making, investment banking and investment management all produced substantial gains, he said.

Revenues totalled \$1.740 billion in the first three months, an advance of 25 per cent from last time's \$1.388 billion.

Net interest revenue declined 21 per cent, to \$36 million, reflecting lower returns from asset and liability management in the United States and a decrease in trading-related net interest revenue. Trading revenue rose to \$758 million from \$303 million.

## Daimler-Benz chief talks of 'further tough decisions'

FROM A CORRESPONDENT IN STUTTGART

BASED on a rise in first-quarter sales, Daimler-Benz, the industrial group, said yesterday it expects to show an operating profit this year.

In the first three months of 1996, Daimler's group sales rose 7 per cent to DM23.6 billion from an adjusted DM22 billion for that period last year. Manfred Gentz, chief financial officer, cautiously predicted a full-year sales increase of between 5 and 10 per cent.

But Jürgen Schrempp, the company's chairman, gave warning that "further tough decisions still have to be taken in 1996" to reverse 1995's substantial loss and restore earnings to a satisfactory level. One tough decision previously announced was that Daimler would not pay investors a dividend for the 1995 business year, when the

group recorded a net loss of DM5.7 billion. The full-year operating loss was DM1.1 billion.

Daimler-Benz revealed yesterday that its group sales last year rose just 0.8 per cent to DM103.5 billion. The net loss came mostly from the restructuring of Daimler's widespread opera-

tions, including the divestment of Fokker, the loss-making Dutch aircraft-maker, and the AEG electronics division. Although financial support to Fokker was ended in January, Daimler-Benz is allowed under German law to charge the costs to 1995.

Separately, the Mercedes-Benz luxury car subsidiary said revenues rose 7 per cent in the first three months of this year, reaching DM18.1 billion. Mercedes also reported that higher sales and cost-cutting had improved its final results for 1995, bringing a net profit of DM2.28 billion, up 23 per cent from 1994.

Daimler-Benz Aerospace said its first-quarter sales were up 6 per cent over the same period last year, reaching DM2.16 billion. The aerospace division said it expected "substantial improvement in earnings" this year after dropping Fokker.

## Lloyds TSB meeting disrupted

Two so-called "ethical streakers" disrupted the first annual meeting of Lloyds TSB yesterday as part of a protest about the bank's stance on Third World debt. Several people were ejected from the meeting in Edinburgh's new conference centre. There were several arrests among the 30 protesters, who were lead by Lloyds and Midland Boycott (LAMB). A Lloyds TSB spokesman said Sir Robin Ibbotson, the company chairman, had offered to meet LAMB in February.

### French strike

France Telecom workers began a 24-hour strike yesterday to protest over plans for partial privatisation of the state-owned telephone monopoly. The unions decided on the walkout after the Government's announcement in March that it would begin changing France Telecom into a corporation from a state agency.

### Rathbone up

Rathbone Brothers, the private banking group, increased 1995 pre-tax profits to £7.4 million from £6.2 million in 1994. Earnings were 21.3p a share, compared to 21p in the previous year. A final dividend of 6.5p a share, due May 24, lifts the total to 10p (9p).

### Polypipe sale

Polypipe, the manufacturer of plastic pipe and fittings, has sold its Allerton Glass business to Magnet, a subsidiary of Berisford, for £7 million. The proceeds will be used to reduce debts. The book value of the net assets sold was £5.1 million at June 30, 1995. Polypipe has also signed a trading agreement with Magnet.

### Barcom buy

Barcom has acquired Meadham Plant Company, a supplier of general contractors plant based in Winchester, for a maximum consideration of £2.5 million in cash and shares. In the year ended April 30, 1995, Meadham earned pre-tax profits of £1.04 million.

### Slowdown

Singapore's economy is expected to slow down because of rising labour and business costs and a strengthening currency, the Asian Development Bank said. The outlook for Singapore in the next two years is for a deceleration of growth toward its sustainable long run potential of 7 per cent to 8 per cent," the bank added.



Yves Léotard

Lloyds TSB  
meeting disrupted

French Strike

Rathbone up

Polypipe up

Barcom up

Stock  
eye

Morgan jumps  
in first quarter

chief talks  
h decisions

1996	High	Low	Company	Price	%	Vol	PE
<b>MICROBEV BEVERAGES</b>							
400	400	395	Afford Dining	495	-7	100	17.7
401	401	395	Bulmer (P)	375	-10	200	17.7
402	402	395	Crown Royal	115	+1	100	14.5
403	403	395	Dovey Bros	245	-10	100	15.2
404	404	395	Fisons	245	-10	100	15.2
405	405	395	Glenfiddich	245	-10	100	15.2
406	406	395	Hawthorn (P)	245	-10	100	15.2
407	407	395	Heublein (P)	245	-10	100	15.2
408	408	395	Heublein (T)	245	-10	100	15.2
409	409	395	Heublein (U)	245	-10	100	15.2
410	410	395	Heublein (V)	245	-10	100	15.2
411	411	395	Heublein (W)	245	-10	100	15.2
412	412	395	Heublein (X)	245	-10	100	15.2
413	413	395	Heublein (Y)	245	-10	100	15.2
414	414	395	Heublein (Z)	245	-10	100	15.2
415	415	395	Heublein (AA)	245	-10	100	15.2
416	416	395	Heublein (AB)	245	-10	100	15.2
417	417	395	Heublein (AC)	245	-10	100	15.2
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## THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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Global Fund	300 80	123.00	-	0.50	0.15	American Portfolio	0171 500 078	106.16	+ 0.03	2.41	Accum	0170 70	124.95	+ 0.00	2.20	Car & Food	0170 500 70	93.95	+ 0.00	1.46	SCOTTISH VISIONS FUND MGMT LTD	0171 655 724		
General Inv	500 40	155.20	-	1.42	1.93	European Portfolio	0171 140 078	124.43	- 0.10	0.92	Accum	0170 70	122.62	+ 0.02	1.62	Food	0170 500 70	93.95	+ 0.00	1.46	SHARD (ALBERT) LTD	0171 277 227 000		
Global Com	27 70	205.20	-	0.50	0.52	High Income Fund	0171 140 078	125.50	- 0.05	0.92	Accum	0170 70	118.08	+ 0.00	1.62	Food Ind	0170 500 70	93.95	+ 0.00	1.46	SIMPLY GOOD LTD	0171 277 227 000		
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**CHOICE 1**  
The Birtwistle festival opens with *The Mask of Orpheus*  
VENUE: Tonight at the Festival Hall



**CHOICE 2**  
Actor of the moment, Ken Stott, stars in *Le Roi s'amuse*  
VENUE: In preview from tomorrow, Olivier Theatre

## THE ARTS



**THEATRE 1**  
Doris Day's reputation is done few favours by the anodyne new musical at the King's Head



**THEATRE 2**  
The bed's the thing, it seems, as the RSC brings Vanbrugh's *The Relapse* to the Barbican.

**LONDON**  
**BIRTWISTLE IN BULK** The Secret Theatre's celebration of Sir Harrison Birtwistle begins today with a semi-staged performance of his monumental lyric opera *The Mask of Orpheus* (7pm). And on Saturday, the BBC Symphony Orchestra and the cast includes Jon Gammon, John Finch, Anne-Marie Owens and Alan Oates. Other opening events include a live Radio 3 broadcast (7pm-8.15pm) and a music theatre performance inspired by *The Mask*, from students of North Westminster Community School and members of the BBCSO (1.45pm-2pm). Tickets £10-£15. Box office 0171-960 4594. Tonight-May 4.

**THE PRINCE'S PLAY** Ken Stott plays the philosopher in Victor Hugo's *Le Roi s'amuse* transposed to Victorian London by Tony Harrison, with the Prince of Wales as the co-chancellor. Piccadilly Theatre, 100 Shaftesbury Avenue, SW1. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Sun 2pm. £11-£17.95. Preview begin tomorrow 8pm. Then Apr 15-18, 7.30pm. Opens April 19. Im 83.

**INTERVIEW WITH A VAMPIRE** The National Contemporary Art Show opens a busy weekend here, followed by the first concert in a *Stilettos* Symphony Weekend from the Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra. Brass Works, 100 New Bond Street, W1. Mon-Fri 10am-5pm. Tickets £10-£15. Thomas among the conductors for the

**WEEKEND CHOICE**  
A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Moxey

**London Symphony Brass and the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain, and Lady Solti the conductor** Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-632 8891) £5  
**ELSEWHERE**  
London Jazz Mafia: Andy Sheppard begins a varied programme at this weekend's Jazz Festival, performing with both his group Small Co-Motion and the Bergen Big Band. Stephen Grapelli's Eclectic Jazz Ralph Towner, among the names appearing tomorrow, while Sunday belongs to George Fahey, Martin Taylor and the lanky Ray Brown. Box Office 0171-231 3788. Today-Sun.

**LIVERPOOL** New Contemporaries 86 — one of the most important institutions of student and recent graduate work in Britain — is re-launched at the Tate tomorrow. For music enthusiasts, the Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra in Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 5

**selected** John Eliot and Shostakovich's *Fouth Symphony*. Tate, Liverpool Road (0151-708 3223). Tues-Sun, 10am-5pm. Until May 27. Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street (0151-709 3762). Sat, 7.30pm.

**LEICESTER** Linda Mellone directs her second Fringe Xavier Rudd's *Heads Above Water* — the young, mischievous and irreverent观察家 can endure a burdensome family life in Morten Møller's *Morten's Kitchen*, Belgrave Gate (0116-252 2222). Tues-Sun, 7pm-10pm. Mon, 7.45pm. Open Apr 16, 7.45pm. Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm.

**LONDON GALLERIES**  
British Museum: Okyo and Kyoko paintings, from 1745-1835. Tues-Sun, 10am-5pm. £5-£10. **Covent Garden** by Thomas Gainsborough (0171-973 5259). **Leighton House:** At Home with Lord Leighton (0171-603 3115). **National Gallery:** *Monet and the Impressionists* from Romeo's Doris Pappel Gallery (0171-747 2828). **Wellcome** (0171-437 2828). **Donald Cooper** (0171-437 2828). **Leicester Galleries:** *Facets of the 80s* (0171-309 0059). **Repton:** *Landscapes 14* (0171-309 0059). **Regent's Canal:** *Gustave Caillebotte* (0171-437 7438). **Surpresa!** *Jean-Michel Basquiat* (0171-723 9072). **Tate** (0171-887 8000). **Victoria & Albert:** *1840s* (0171-480 0000). **Whitechapel:** *Design Now*. **South Bank:** *Lowry Silkscreens* (Studio, Millenium) (0171-938 6500).

conflicts in the form of a prickly reunion between two women.

**WYNDHAMS** *Heads Above Water* by Xavier Rudd (0171-252 2223). **Barbican:** *Mon-Sat, 7.45pm. Sun, 5.30pm.*

**THEATRE GUIDE**  
Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

**House full, return only**  
**Seats available**  
**Seats at all prices**

**AN IDEAL MARRIAGE** Trumper returns for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political class and sexual hypocrisy. Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-923 8000). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Sun, 5.30pm.

**MISS JULIE** Polly Teale directs Susan Lynch in the title role of Ibsen's classic drama. Royal Exchange, Manchester (0161-204 0000), with John Henshaw and Cara Kelly giving especially strong performances.

**Young Vic:** *The Cut*, SE1 (0171-563 9207). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm; mat Sat, Sun, 4pm.

**PRESENT LAUGHTER** Peter Bowles plays Coward's exaggerated and absurd comedy of manners. Albery, The Albery, WC1 (0171-379 3367). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Thu, 8pm. Sun, 4pm.

**SKYLIGHT** Outstanding playing by Michael Gambon and Lee Williams in David Hare's dramatisation of society's

conflict. *Trumper* (0171-930 8800).

**COMMUNICATING DOORS** Savoy (0171-923 8000). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mat Sat, 5pm.

**THEATRE GUIDE**

**THEATRE**



THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 12 1996



## ■ POP 1

Former hellraiser Paul Westerberg now has a taste for nothing more life-threatening than a good cigar



## ■ POP 2

Simple emotions, simply expressed: you can't beat the schmaltzy ballads of the ever poised Lionel Richie



## ■ POP 3

Cocteau Twins maintain their mystique on *Milk & Kisses*, an album that inhabits a world of its own



## ■ POP 4

The Beloved continue to peddle their shallow brand of blissed-out dance music on their latest, *X*

# Too fast to live, too old to die

**David Sinclair talks to rehabilitated rock 'n' roller Paul Westerberg about drugs, death, hellraising and the joys of a quiet evening in**

**R**ock stars do not often break down and cry in interviews with journalists they have never met before. And Paul Westerberg, one of the most noted hellraisers of his generation, is the last person you would imagine to be an exception.

Leader of the enormously influential and perpetually under-the-influence American group the Replacements from 1979 to 1990, Westerberg has lived the swaggering, staggering, rock 'n' roll lifestyle to the hilt. Now, on the eve of the release of his second solo album, *Eventually*, he is a sober, 36-year-old man with a taste for nothing more life-threatening than French cigars. He is, however, still counting the cost of his former band's excesses, specifically the drug-related death in February 1995 of guitarist Bob Stinson.

"I knew this would happen sooner or later," he says, jaw quivering as he removes his shades for the first time during our interview, and wipes the tears from his eyes with the sleeve of his black suit. "I've been able to keep the lid on it until now..."

"I go back and look at some of the press before he died and I remember a quote which said, 'What's supposed to happen is that one of us dies because that's what they want' and that's what they did want. We all knew that Bob was on the highway to hell. Even before we split up, he was out of the band through drug abuse that was even beyond what the rest of us were doing. He was not a stable man. He needed help and he never really got what he needed."

Westerberg has written a song for his lost friend, a desperately poignant ballad called *Good Day* with a chorus that goes, "A good day is any day that you're alive."

"I never thought I would make a statement like that, but we change. I don't look forward to playing it

**'Rock is vaudeville: they pay money and you play the fool.'**

same way. I wanted to make this album easier and more accessible than *14 Songs*."

If Westerberg is now actively looking for a taste of commercial success, you can hardly blame him. After all, he has been knocking on the door for 16 years. Born in the last few hours of 1989, and brought up in Minneapolis, he came from a large family that numbered both musicians and alcoholics among its ranks, which may explain the young Westerberg's passion for both music and booze. He was never pushed to be a high achiever, which he now believes made him try all the harder to make something special of his life.

The Replacements sprang out of the same Minneapolis hardcore punk scene that spawned Hüsker Dü, another of the great, unsung influences on latterday American rock, and later, Soul Asylum. Taking their cue from the New York Dolls, the Mats (as the Replacements were known) became renowned for their raucous,

*Soul*, released in 1989, which sold about 350,000 copies. But by then the combination of hard slog and even harder partying over so many years had taken its toll.

"We could have been millionaires and we would still have been sick of each other. We played our last gig on July 4, and it just dawned on everyone, 'Yeah, I guess we're done, aren't we?'"

It is a cautionary tale and one that Westerberg admits he is lucky to be around to tell. He lives quietly now and spends most of his evenings reading.

"Everyone knows it takes a lot to get me out. What do you do when you go to a club? If you're not going to pick up a girl or get drunk, it cuts down the fun, really."

So it is rock 'n' roll — as Ian



Grown up all right: Paul Westerberg, hunched against the cold and the vicissitudes of life, keeps his shades on — "All I wanted to do was play rock 'n' roll, but I've grown a little tired of it"

ragged brand of garage-band rock and notorious for their royally drunken displays of craziness on and off stage. But thanks to Westerberg's exceptional ear for a tune — which eventually produced gems such as *Left of the Dial*, *I'll Be You*, *Skyway* and *Alex Chilton* — they always seemed to promise

"Around the time of the fourth album, *Let It Be*, things were really rolling. Everyone was saying we were headed for the top. For a while we were the coolest band in America. We thought, 'We're going to be rich in a couple of years,' and then two years later the crowds are thinning out and you suddenly realise that that was your heyday."

In fact the Replacements' most successful album was *Don't Tell a*

*Soul*, released in 1989, which sold about 350,000 copies. But by then the combination of hard slog and even harder partying over so many years had taken its toll.

"It depends what you want out of it. If you want people to admire you and you want to get laid and make money, you can do all that. But if you want to touch people, it's harder to do."

"Performing rock 'n' roll is just vaudeville: they pay money and you play the fool. All my early life I wanted to do was play rock 'n' roll, but I've grown a little tired of it. Why can't you play rock 'n' roll on Friday night and go out to dinner with your family on Saturday night? I can play the music but I don't have to live the lifestyle any more."

• *Eventually* is released by Warner Bros on April 20

Hunter so memorably expressed in his vaudevolist song *Ballad of Mart* — a losers' game?

"It depends what you want out of it. If you want people to admire you and you want to get laid and make money, you can do all that. But if you want to touch people, it's harder to do."

"Performing rock 'n' roll is just vaudeville: they pay money and you play the fool. All my early life I wanted to do was play rock 'n' roll, but I've grown a little tired of it. Why can't you play rock 'n' roll on Friday night and go out to dinner with your family on Saturday night? I can play the music but I don't have to live the lifestyle any more."

• *Eventually* is released by Warner Bros on April 20

**NEW ALBUMS:** Lionel Richie steers a course through familiar waters after a decade on the beach

## The Commodore gets a bit wet

**LIONEL RICHIE**  
*Louder than Words*  
(Mercury 532 241)

IT has been ten years since Lionel Richie's last new album, *Dancing on the Ceiling*, a leisurely rate of output even for a former Motown superstar. But unlike the comparably sporadic releases of Stevie Wonder and Michael Jackson, *Louder than Words* arrives without fanfare, confirming Richie's curiously undervalued status among the heavy hitters of black American pop.

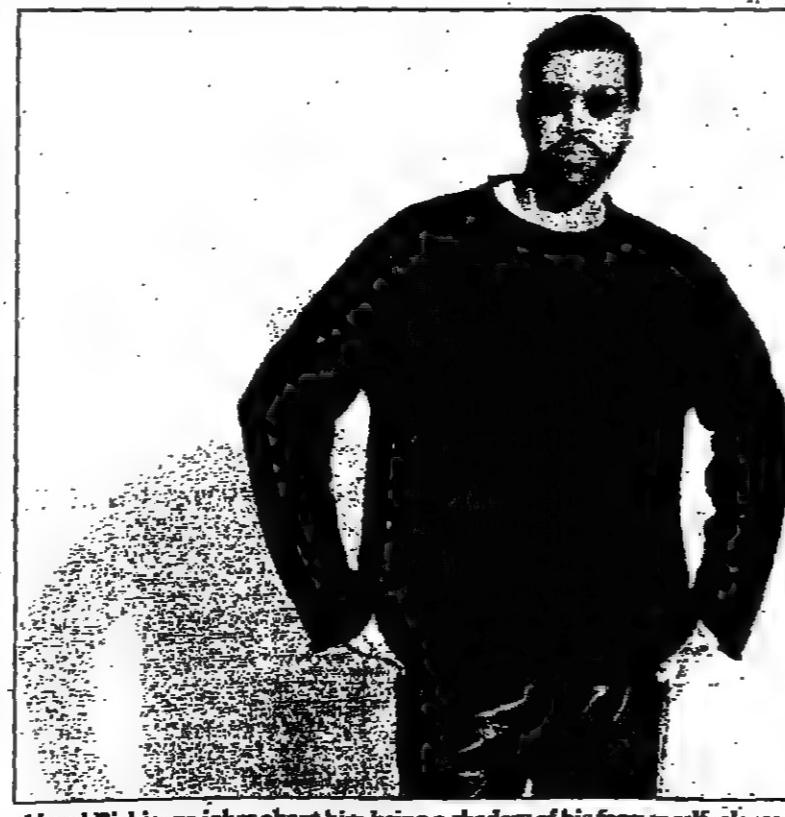
A performer who habitually plays well within his game, Richie continues to write and perform songs that deal in simple emotions simply expressed. Most levels of meaning within his lyrics can be gleaned from the titles alone — *Can't Get Over You*, *Don't Wanna Lose You, Now You're Gone*, *Still in Love* — and there is a gentle but persistent bias in favour of safe, schmaltzy ballads.

But it is when Richie attempts something a little more adventurous — such as the strangely acting vocal and crazy funk bass line of *Change* or the high-rolling jazz swing of *Lovers at First Sight* — that you get a tantalising glimpse of what the man is truly capable.

**THE WALKABOUTS**
*Devil's Road*  
(Virgin 7243 84134921)

CONVENED in Seattle 12 years ago and signed to the Sub Pop label for six years, the Walkabouts nevertheless seem to have been completely unaffected by the rise and fall of grunge. Their music is rooted in the baroque, storytelling tradition of Nick Cave and the Bad Seeds, and it is no coincidence that *Devil's Road* was produced by the Australian Victor Van Vugt, best known for his work with Cave.

The songs, all written by Chris Eckman, are peopled with drifters and desperados and often conjure a sense of earnest wonder: "Even the mightiest rivers will bend/Before they vanish in the sand". Conventional rock instrumentation is augmented by violin and pedal steel, while much of the



Lionel Richie: no jokes about him being a shadow of his former self, please

album's doomy grandeur derives from Mark Nichols' dramatic string arrangements, performed by the Warsaw Philharmonic Orchestra.

The singing duties are divided between Eckman (a deep, Cave-man

growl) and Carla Torgerson (a contrastingly high, frosty tone), and, since the two hardly ever feature on the same song together it feels, at times, as if there is a tug of war going on over the album's soul.

Take That (RCA)  
Oasis (Creation)  
Celine Dion (Epic)  
Alana Morissette (Maverick)  
Tina Turner (Parlophone)  
M People (Deconstruction)  
Mike & the Mechanics (Virgin)  
Ocean Colour Scene (MCA)  
Pulp (Island)  
Garbage (Mushroom)

**THE BELOVED**
*X*  
(East West 0630 1316)

THE husband and wife duo of Jon and Helena Marsh, better known as the Beloved, carry on peddling a peculiarly shallow brand of blissed-out dance music on the enigmatically titled *X*. The formula depends on synthesized chord sequences and effects, a mechanised beat and intermittent bouts of lovey-dovey stage whispering by Jon. The result is songs of limited melodic and rhythmic invention and lyrics that are simple-minded, at best.

Without the visual distraction of all those naked bodies on the video of *Satellite*, the track fails to sustain interest in its thumping house beat and pseudo-gospel chants. And, while there are more imaginatively syncopated numbers, notably *Missing You*, and an intriguing cool shuffle on the off-beat called *Three Steps to Heaven*, it is not enough to make the pudding rise.

**COCTEAU TWINS**
*Milk & Kisses*  
(Fontana/Mercury 514 501)

THE Twins have often been imitated but could never be mistaken for anyone else. From the echoing, opening chords of *Violaine* to the majestic, drifting finale of *Seekers Who Are Lovers*, their new album inhabits a musical world of its own.

For a group who have been together for 14 years, they have surrendered surprisingly little of their mystique. True to form, the abstract cover artwork of *Milk & Kisses* gives away little beyond a list of impenetrable titles including *Rilkean Heart*, *Tishbite*, *Eperdu* and *Calfskin Smack*, while Liz Frazer continues to use her tremendous soprano to skip and slake across the melodies, forming delicate clusters of syllables with no discernible meaning.

There are some lovely tunes, and the arrangements are more firmly and finely structured than has often been the case in the past. But for all their fragile beauty the songs evoke little more than a creeping sense of *déjà vu*.

**CASSANDRA**  
wilson

"A vocalist so good it's hard to believe she really exists."

*Independent* on Sunday

"Outstanding"  
*The Wire*

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*Time Out*

one of the most breathtaking voices of the 1990's."

*Observer*

Experience the voice of Cassandra Wilson on her new album *New Moon Daughter*

spellbinding collection of pop, blues, roots & jazz

CD available now on



DAVID SINCLAIR

Patrick Duff, on stage, exudes the kind of electricity that the black-browed Paganini was supposed to have generated, but with a noncy violin rather than huge, grating Stratocasters and the death-rumble of overloading bass. When Duff snaps "How could I possibly explain/My hatred of you," he shines with a malice that dims the spotlight on him. When he convulses against his guitar, the first 20 rows swoon. When my sister made momentary eye-contact with him backstage last year, she almost fainted, and spent the rest of the evening with her pupils wildly dilated, whispering "He looked at me... me!"

And rarely for something so bound up in the glory of the moment, his urgency travels on to record too. *Hysteria Unknown*, the second single from his band, Strangelove, is — and I know I am occasionally prone to exaggeration, but this is the simple, objective truth — one of the greatest singles ever recorded.

Three-and-a-half minutes of wildly spiralling guitars, uncomfortably passionate, painfully restless: finding momentary release in serried ranks of double-tracked Duffs repeating the words, "Hysteria unknown," as his primary vocals urgently cry, "Go anywhere/That's far away/Lie quietly down and die in shame," before launching themselves back into the confusion. *Hysteria Unknown* is an extra bonus B-side to Strangelove's new single, *Living with the Human Machines*. And it's not the best thing on there.

"Machines make my shudder; I can't do anything with them," Duff explains, twisting uneasily in his chair. "My flatmate has an answering machine, but I won't touch it. Computers — I'll never get my head around them. Imagine pouring what's in your mind into something plastic and metal — I find that vaguely revolting.

"I can't believe that people invite these contraptions into their houses. It's like trying to domesticate lions — they'll always be at odds with you, you can never tame them. Of course, I plug in my guitar to a machine, it's cool."

"It's like living your life twice, as different people. I've been the drunken, obnoxious Patrick. And now I get to do my life again as the sober, reasoned Patrick."

• The single, *Living with the Human Machines*, is out now on Food Records. The album, *Love and Other Demons*, follows in June

*DOM*

## EDUCATION



# TEACHING IN SINGAPORE

The Ministry of Education (Singapore) invites applications from qualified UK teachers to take up challenging and rewarding positions in Singapore on a contract basis.



## Teaching Posts (Group I)

(English, History, Geography and Economics)

1. The Ministry runs a programme at 5 Junior Colleges (equivalent to Sixth Form Colleges) for selected top students who have opted to study humanities subjects such as, English (including General Paper), History, Geography and Economics under an award scheme. Generally the teacher is tasked to prepare this group of students for the Singapore-Cambridge 'A' and 'S' level papers and to give them exposure to extra materials.

2. The Ministry also requires good grammar school English Language/literature teachers to upgrade the standard of spoken and written English at the secondary and post-secondary levels.

3. The syllabi and examinations that students are preparing for are:

Singapore Cambridge General Paper (Subject 8003)  
GCE 'A' level: English (Subject 9002)

History (Subject 9021)  
Geography (Subject 9057)

Economics (Subject 9074)

Singapore Cambridge English Language (Subject 1120)  
GCE 'O' level: English Literature (Subject 2010)

4. Applicants must possess:-  
a) an Honours degree in English, History, Geography or Economics; or in the Humanities with English, History, Geography or Economics as one of the major subjects;  
b) suitable teaching qualifications; and  
c) at least 5 years of relevant teaching experience in schools or colleges.

## Teaching Posts (Group II)

(English)

5. The Ministry wishes to recruit graduates of English Language or Literature to teach in secondary schools in Singapore.

6. Applicants must possess:-

a) at least a general degree with English Language or English Literature as a major subject;  
b) suitable teaching qualifications; and,  
c) at least 3 years of relevant teaching experience in a secondary school. Trained graduates without teaching experience are also invited to apply.

7. The syllabi and examinations that students are preparing for are:-

Singapore Cambridge English Language (Subject 1120)  
GCE 'O' level: English Literature (Subject 2010)

## Remuneration Package

8. The remuneration package for both teaching posts comprises:-

• Competitive monthly salaries ranging from \$S1,799 to \$S8,226 (£833 to £2,882) which take into account the candidates' last drawn salary or starting UK salaries in the case of newly trained graduate teachers;  
• An Annual Variable Component (Annual Bonus) as payable to serving Government officers; (The amount paid in 1995 was 2 months' salary);  
• An end-of-contract gratuity amounting to 25% of the last drawn gross salary for each completed month of service;  
• Renewable contracts of three-year duration;

• Housing allowance according to marital status ranging from \$S1,800 to \$S2,100 (£739 to £970) per month;

• Education allowance for two dependent children up to 18 years of age ranging from \$S6,000 to \$S9,800 (£2,771 to £24,494) per annum to subsidize education in foreign system schools in Singapore or overseas schools. For education in local Singapore schools, fees are at subsidised rates as payable by Singapore citizens;

• Subsidised outpatient medical benefits. Monthly employer's contribution based on 1% of basic salary to pay for hospitalisation medical insurance and costs;

• Free air passage to Singapore on first appointment and return air passage on completion of contract;

• Home leave upon renewal of each contract;

• Interest-free settling-in loan of \$S6,000 (£2,771);

• A once-only commuted baggage allowance of \$S280 (£129); and

• A once-only commuted board and lodging allowance for initial accommodation expenses on arrival according to marital status ranging from \$S600 to \$S1,200 (£277 to £554).

Note: \$1 = £S\$2.18

(The quoted exchange rate is subject to change)

9. Interviews are scheduled to be held in London in May/June 96 and successful applicants are expected to take up their appointment in July or later.

## Application Forms

10. Application forms can be obtained or requested from:-  
Teacher Recruitment Unit, Singapore High Commission  
16 Kinnerton Street, London SW1X 8ES, United Kingdom  
Tel: 0171-225-4562

## Closing Date

11. Applications close on 7 May 96.

## The Harroldian School

Lonsdale Road, London SW13 9ON

0181-748 6117

seeks a

## HEADMASTER or HEADMISTRESS

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Sir Alford Housman-Bowell, Bt., Chairman, The Harroldian School

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## INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

## BRIGHTON COLLEGE

### HEAD

The Council of Brighton College invites applications for the appointment of Head from 1st September 1997 following the retirement of Mr John Leach MA.

The successful candidate will have to demonstrate breadth of experience, academic leadership, and flair.

Further particulars may be obtained from The Clerk to the Governors, Brighton College, Eastern Road, Brighton BN2 2AL. Telephone 01273 697131 Fax 01273 682342

The closing date for applications is 11th May 1996.

Brighton College is a Charitable trust for the purpose of educating children of ages 3-18. Registered Charity No (307061). providing education for boys and girls.

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## UNIVERSITY APPOINTMENTS

## INDEPENDENT EDUCATION

## BRASENOSE & WORCESTER COLLEGES OXFORD

## Official Fellowship and Lectureship in Law

The Colleges propose to elect a Tutor in Law, with effect from 1 October 1996, or as soon as possible thereafter.

The person appointed will be an Official Fellow of Brasey College and Lecturer of Worcester College.

The salary scale is age-related, reaching a maximum of £32,773 at age 45, plus additional benefits and allowances.

Applications should be sent to the Senior Tutor, Brasey College, Oxford, OX1 4JL, with details of former publications, the names and addresses of three referees and letter of application by Friday 3rd May 1996.

Applicants should seek their reference to write direct to the Senior Tutor by the closing date. Further particulars may be obtained from the College Secretary (tel. 01865 277829).

Brasey and Worcester Colleges are equal opportunities employers.

## EDUCATION

## McDonald's grammar school

The ITV newsreader Trevor McDonald tells David Charter why he wants to persuade people to stop grunting and to learn to speak the Queen's English

**G**ood English is a matter of pride for Trevor McDonald. His mission is to inspire a similar emotion in a generation dismissed as "grunters" by Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, because of their poor communication skills.

Mr McDonald's assured stewardship of ITN's *News At Ten*, precise pronunciation and obvious love of the language made him a popular choice as chairman of the Better English Campaign, which will be unveiled on Monday after several months of behind-the-scenes preparations. He says that it will not be a spectacular launch.

The campaign has a slogan: language is power. It has a bundle of good ideas. But because the Department for Education and Employment gave it virtually no resources, apart from a skeleton staff seconded from Whitehall, there will, for the moment, be more plans than actual projects.

Valuable links have been forged with organisations such as the CBI, Community Service Volunteers and the Newspaper Society; but more will be needed to put ideas into action. Nevertheless, the initiatives already outlined in advance seem to have great potential.

Local radio, newspapers and magazines have pledged to run material aimed at youngsters to encourage better communication. Some high-profile writers and poets will help to take the message directly to teenagers. And a pilot scheme to link schools by cable for video-conferencing is being prepared.

"At this stage," Mr McDonald says, "we want to give people some idea of what we are working on, and we are trying to make the kind of splash which will get more of the people we are trying to attract to support us." He says the campaign's fundamental aim is to improve spoken and written English among the younger generation. They have to realise that their quality of life or prospects can be enhanced by better communication.

"I find it a little strange that everybody else in the world seems to have realised this," he says. "English is not only the international language of commerce but it is a form of communication which can enhance one's personal status in life. People who turn up for jobs need to be able to convince an employer that they can communicate effectively or they will not get the job."

Despite the strong steer that the campaign has been given by industry to direct its efforts towards the needs of the labour market, Mr McDonald hopes that some of his own pleasure in language will rub off on others. He

Writers and poets will help to take the message directly to teenagers

Mrs Shephard targeted when she set up the Campaign for Better English under Mr McDonald's stewardship.

To cheers at the Tory party conference in 1994, Mrs Shephard denounced "Estuary English" and pledged to restore the standard of spoken and written language. Nothing happened until the next year's conference, when the campaign was announced.

But Mr McDonald is adamant that the campaign should not be about forcing everyone to speak like him, or even like the Education Secretary. He explains: "We will try to make people aware that they can keep their shorthand language for their friends and their social groups, but they should know that there is something else. There is another way of deploying language in your favour. And we are saying that is the way to a kind of success."

"We are not trying to cut out people's regional accents or make them speak like anybody in particular. But people who cannot use English effectively might well find themselves left behind."

Mr McDonald's interest is personal as well as professional. "I do think it is rather sad that some people don't

use the language as it should be as I learnt to use it. It should be fun." His own love of language comes from a strong early commitment to broadcasting, literature and learning. He perfected his English by imitating announcers on the BBC World Service while listening as a child in his native Trinidad.

A key factor in his own success has clearly been a tremendous fascination with English and a burning ambition. But if the campaign is to succeed, it has to reach the disaffected youngsters that Mrs Shephard had in mind when she targeted grunters.

Mr McDonald believes that the key is not to preach but simply to emphasise self-interest. Language



Trevor McDonald: "People need to be able to convince an employer that they can communicate effectively"

has to be seen as a route to a better life.

"It is not important for anybody in society that they do well," he says; "it is important for them that they do well."

Local radio stations that young people hear and magazines they read have been enlisted to help spread the message.

"One of the things I am particularly keen about is trying to get more writers and poets into schools. It is not a brand new idea but we want to expand the existing scheme. If we get the money."

Again self-interest is the key. "It will be nice to show people, even those who are not so well motivated,

that there are people who make a living by words and by expression."

"If they can rub shoulders with these people and talk to them, one hopes something will brush off," says Mr McDonald. "The campaign is all about slowly building up awareness."

Mr McDonald believes he is in for a long campaign and no goals or deadlines have yet been set, apart from stimulating new excitement about English.

The contrary, that we are ashamed of our language, is too horrible to contemplate," he adds. "It is a language which everybody else is using and we should use it with pride."

were being judged, they had had little time to prepare for the inspection. They now perhaps have too much time.

One of the most unpleasant and difficult tasks imaginable is to sit with a well-meaning man or woman and say, in essence, that the past 15 or more years of his or her professional life have been a waste of time, that the school is failing, or, to use the euphemism, in need of special measures.

These judgments are not arrived at lightly. The initial Ofsted judgments are then checked in a follow-up visit by Her Majesty's Inspectors who have reversed the decision in only a handful of cases.

Ofsted, the Office for Standards in Education, has become the new hate figure in union demonology. It is attacked for being too expensive and damaging to schools; all stick and no carrot, to quote Doug McAvoy, the general secretary of the National Union of Teachers.

Schools are there for the benefit of pupils, not teachers

As someone who has been on a number of inspections since the system began in September 1993, I do not recognise the wilder claims that all inspection teams are only interested in the bad, the poor, the unsatisfactory. There is nothing an inspector likes more than to be able to report that a school is good or has outstanding features. If there are shortcomings, however, it is only right that they are exposed. Schools are there for the benefit of pupils, not teachers; they should be accountable to parents and the community they serve.

Inspectors, too, should be accountable. Through the record of inspection of evidence, with its lesson observation forms and notes of interviews, they are. Properly followed, the system is thorough and consistent. In judging the quality of teaching, the criteria include subject knowledge, the way the class is motivated and controlled, the expectations the teacher has of pupils.

Ofsted is expensive and the whole system is to be reviewed, but it would be a mistake to abandon the notion of regular and professional inspection and return to the haphazard system that left many schools unaccountable. Does anyone, other than a few union activists, want that?

• The author is a lay inspector.

Stephen Court talks to university teachers about the pressures they face from bureaucracy and student numbers

## This is no time to be a don



Dr Andy Baker, left, says that research is marginalised

people in a room. The amount of discussion is really limited," he says. "I have to mark about 100 essays in two weeks. I find that hard to cope with. I can't discuss the essays fully with the students."

The experience of Dr Edwards bears out the effect on academic staff of the rapid growth in higher education.

Between 1984 and 1994, student numbers increased by 65 per cent, but academic staff rose by only 11 per cent. A

survey carried out in 1994 by the Association of University Teachers found that, on average, academics worked 55 hours a week in term-time, and 51 hours a week in

vacations.

A third of their time during the term was taken up by administration — more than was spent on teaching. Undergraduates (29 per cent), or

We have seminars with 30

"Last September and October I worked about 60 to 70 hours a week for nearly four weeks, almost entirely preparing documentation in the run-up to the assessment," she says.

The past decade has also seen the introduction of research assessment, which is based on the quality and quantity of publications by academics. The assessment results determine the allocation of the bulk of research cash from the funding council.

Over the past term, academics have been preparing for the fourth round of assessment, which starts at the end of this month. For Dr Levitas, this has been an extra headache. "The exercise means more administration, and a huge pressure on teaching because of the amount of research we have to produce."

Andy Baker, a physicist at the University of Bath, finds juggling teaching, research and administration a difficult act. He says: "This term I have two days a week clear for research, but last term I didn't have a single day without teaching commitments."

"Things are changing so rapidly in the sector — it's very unusual to teach the same course for two years. This means research is often marginalised to the vocation."

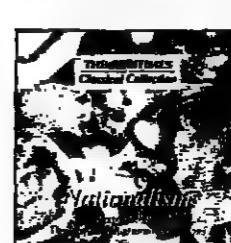
For university teachers such as Mike Edwards, Ruth Levitas and Dr Baker, and many others, there is still much in their work — particularly research and teaching — which they find rewarding. But the job has changed dramatically since they started their careers.

"I still enjoy being an academic," says Mike Edwards. "But I would have grave reservations about recommending it to anyone now as a career."

• The Times, in association with the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, gives you two superb offers this week. The first is a free ticket to one of the RPO's inaugural concerts at the Royal Albert Hall on either May 12 or May 21. Buy one ticket and you get another of equal value FREE. The concert will be conducted by Orvaline Arwel Hughes and Yuri Temirkanov and feature baritone Thomas Allen and cellist Lynn Harrell. Full details appeared in *Times* and another application form will be published tomorrow.

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## Setting standards to root out the rogues

More than 600,000 students come to Britain each year to learn English.

John O'Leary reports on moves to safeguard a £700 million industry

FINDING a language course has never been difficult in Britain. Thousands of students cross the Channel each summer to learn English and, despite the traditional British reluctance to master other tongues, growing numbers of students in universities and adult education centres are making an attempt.

The problem, especially for continental visitors, has always been to judge the quality of the countless courses on offer. There are annual horror stories about rogue language schools, which tarnish the good name of others in the sector. Next week, however, the

British Council and the two associations representing the public and private sectors have stepped in to fill the breach.

The council has managed separate schemes for the two associations since the 1980s, but now one accreditation system will cover schools, colleges and universities that teach English and a foreign language. Institutions will be inspected on a three-year cycle, with spot-checks between formal visits.

At present, 320 of the estimated 1,000 centres operating during the summer peak are accredited. The signs are that the proportion will grow with a more prestigious, better-known scheme, especially since the new partnership will also promote accredited institutions through the British Council's worldwide network of offices.

The enthusiastic take-up is placing a strain on language departments, most of which have received little extra funding to offer an expanded

service. Universities have been increasing their use of computerised packages and video programmes to supplement individual teaching.

The 800 members of the Association for Language Learning, who attended their annual conference at Exeter University earlier this month, called for a more coherent national policy covering all age groups. The association is worried that languages were downgraded beyond the age of 14 in the review of the national curriculum when the CBI and the Department of Trade and Industry are emphasising their importance in economic terms.

# Hastings increases feeling of optimism

By RICHARD WETHERELL

FOR the first time in its short, start-stop-start history, the World League of American Football (WLAF) starts its season with a feeling of optimism. All six teams return to the same cities with the same six head coaches and, after a lengthy closed season, the campaign starts with two derbies — tomorrow the Rhein Fire entertain the champions, the Frankfurt Galaxy, and on Sunday the Scottish Claymores visit the London Monarchs at White Hart Lane.

The acquisition of William "The Refrigerator" Perry by the Monarchs has already proved beneficial. His pre-season role as the head of their marketing and publicity campaign has increased their media presence tenfold from



Hastings: challenge

last season. His performance on the pitch will be watched almost as keenly as his poundage, which, listed at "350lb-ish", seems on the generous side.

Gavin Hastings has done a similar job for the Claymores. While the capabilities of the former Scotland and British Isles captain and the record points-scorer for his country are well known in rugby union, his decision to try and kick a different type of ball is a brave one. "It's going to be a major challenge getting on that field and lining up my first PAT [conversion], field goal or kick-off," he said earlier this week.

At training camp in Georgia last month, Hastings received

some impromptu coaching from Mick Luckhurst, the English-born kicker who spent seven years in the National Football League with the Atlanta Falcons, and Morten Andersen, the present Falcons kicker, who is believed to be one of the best ever. He described that entrancing 30-minute spell when the pair took apart his technique as "the most memorable experience of Atlanta". Whether he can be successful will be as intriguing as guessing the Fridge's true weight.

The attendances will be studied almost as keenly. Last year, the Monarchs were reluctant to nominate a figure for their first home game — and with good reason, as fewer than 9,000 turned up.

This week, the Monarchs have been almost as coy, but always seem to let slip a figure of 15,000. As the League's flagship franchise, the number at White Hart Lane on Sunday will be almost as important as the result.

The six teams, which also include the Amsterdam Admirals and Barcelona Dragons, play each other on a home and away basis. The team with the best record after the first half of the season will host the World Bowl on June 22 or 23 and will play the team which records the best record in the second half in that championship game. Last year, on June 17, the Galaxy beat the Admirals 26-22 in Amsterdam.

Each team has seven "national" (non-American) players, one of whom must be a kicker or punter. For the first two drives of the game, each team must have at least one national player on the field. The rules do not apply for the next two drives, but come into force for the next set of possessions.

**FIXTURES:** London Monarchs: Sunday, March 24; Atlanta Claymores: Sunday, April 27; Rhein Fire (a) May 6; Barcelona Dragons (h) May 11; Amsterdam Admirals (a) May 12; Frankfurt Galaxy (h) May 13; London Monarchs (a) May 14; Barcelona Dragons (h) June 5; Scottish Claymores (a) June 10; Rhein Fire (h) Scottish Claymores: Sunday, March 24; April 28; Amsterdam Admirals (h) May 4; Rhein Fire (a) May 11; Frankfurt Galaxy (h) May 12; Rhein Fire (h) May 26; Frankfurt Galaxy (h) June 1; Amsterdam Admirals (h) June 2; London Monarchs (a) June 10; Barcelona Dragons (a)

**Time Out**, the very best London listings magazine, has a Sportsboard column wherein clubs and gymsnasiums, base, basket, foot and volleyball teams invite readers to consider membership. Last week the Rainbow Warriors' advertisement called for: Lesbian fast-pitch experienced pitcher and catcher.

I was looking for something more general, settled for: North London Lions seek new players of Australian Rules football. Oz ancestry not essential. Contact Brian.

I contacted Brian and, on Wednesday evening, he and I and the Lions' coach, who is called Damien, from Adelaide, also Adam, who works in a hospital research laboratory, and Jensen, a carpenter with bar experience, both keen on embracing Australian Rules, met in a pub called O'Henry's in Finchley Road on the eastern fringes of London-Irish Kilburn.

Channel 4 used to show Australian Rules: it was the sport in which men wore very brief, very tight shorts and sleeveless jerseys and ran into each other a lot. Like Gaelic football with added violence.

The oval on which they play is the size of two and a half football pitches. There are four goalposts at each end: getting the ball — rugby shaped but smaller and heavier — through the tall centre posts counts six points. A single point is awarded for a "behind", the spaces between the centre and outside posts.

Teams comprise 18-a-side with four substitutes who can be interchanged an unlimited number of times. There is no offside rule and, in Oz, they don't send people off, not for anything. A player can walk onto the field, punch an opponent on the nose and it's all right... for the time being.

Tackles should be above the knee and below the shoulder; well, yes technically you can grab a man in the crotch but the trousers are very tight. We were drinking pints of lager and, when it was my round, I asked what I could get. They said lager.

I suggested they tell me which kind as O'Henry's seemed to serve a fair selection and they said "you don't ask Australians what kind of lager we drink lager". Over the next glasses of whatever, I learnt about shirt front", which is Rules-speak for a shoulder charge that misses its target; "blind turn", a rolling turn to avoid the tackler; and the "mark", which is similar to marks in rugby except you do not need to be approaching 30 and is looking for a contact sport to see him through the summer. He listens impassively, unashamed about the shorts.

Whether he keeps a straight face — a perception (false) that the game is rough.

Damien shakes his head, wondering how such a thought could have entered people's minds. Jensen, who originates from Burma and now lives in Upton Park, smiles. Adam, from Poole in Dorset, wants to play because he is approaching 30 and is looking for a contact sport to see him through the summer. He listens impassively, unashamed about the shorts.

As football league clubs

used to have a limit on the number of foreign players

they may use, so the Australian Rules League insists that no team has more than 11 Australian players. "We do this to promote the game."

"How many watch?"

"About 30."

"Who umpires?" That is one

of the problems they need

umpires who know the rules

and can keep up with the play

and, when you get people like

that, they don't want to umpire; they want to get in there.

Adam and Jensen are keen,

receive Lions shirts onto

which have been stitched the

badges of two sponsors ...

"Terrible job stitching on

those badges — it scares fingers," Brian explains.

"Could you not find someone with a sewing machine?"

Australians come over with

effects weighing 30lb; no

room for sewing machines.

We decide that the next ad in

Time Out might be for a

seamstress.

receive special deals at O'Henry's — like priority entry if there is a queue. O'Henry's sponsor the team and run a barbecue which is to be either free or subsidised.

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**Backers to secure long-term future of Windsor**

By JENNY MACARTHUR

THE Royal Windsor Horse Show, which has been under financial pressure for a decade, has received support from BCM Worldwide, the international equestrian management company, which will secure its future well into the next century.

Simon Brooks-Ward, a director of BCM, who made the announcement in London yesterday, said: "We are injecting a considerable amount into the show and intend to see it not only survive but thrive."

Robert Wiseman, chief executive of Windsor, welcomed the BCM as the "ideal partner". The five-day show, which costs £800,000 to run, was founded in 1943 by the late Count Robert Orsini and Geoffrey Cross, who died last year.

When the Richmond show ended 30 years ago, it was left to Windsor to uphold the tradition of the big outdoor show. Its pageantry, style and royal connections (the Queen is patron and has not missed a show since her accession) gave it a unique position among shows but it flourished against considerable financial odds.

In 1984, after the loss of key sponsors, it was reduced to four days. The cutbacks coincided with a decline in its international standing.

Brooks-Ward, director of the successful Olympia show-jumping championships, intends to restore top international show-jumping in the main arena and to make the Harrods International Driving Grand Prix the premier driving championships in the world. "Our objective is to develop the competitive elements whilst retaining the pageantry," he said.

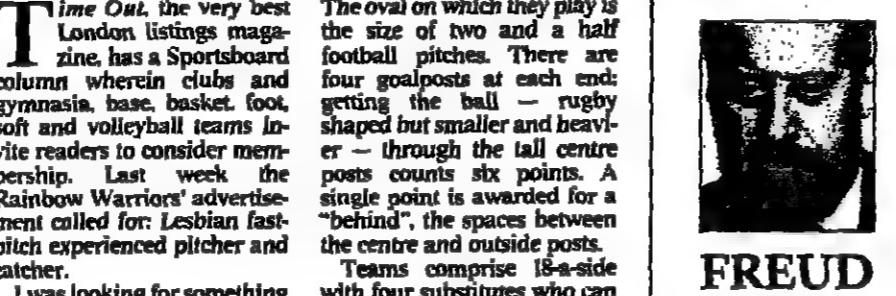
This year, the show, back to five days, takes place in its traditional setting in Home Park from May 8 to 12 and has attracted a record entry of 3,450. Nick Skelton, the winner of the 1995 showjumping World Cup who now competes mainly on the Continent, is making a rare appearance at a British show. He and the two Whitaker brothers, Michael and John — who also compete at Windsor — are leading contenders for the British Olympic team.

In addition to the show-jumping and dressage, the show will host a range of fun events and displays.

## Desperately seeking wizards of Oz rules



Jensen, left, Damien, Brian and Adam are enthusiastic about Australian Rules football, despite the very tight shorts. Photograph: André Camara



FREUD ON FRIDAY

front", which is Rules-speak for a shoulder charge that misses its target; "blind turn", a rolling turn to avoid the tackler; and the "mark", which is similar to marks in rugby except you do not need to be approaching 30 and is looking for a contact sport to see him through the summer. He listens impassively, unashamed about the shorts.

Each team has a full back

and two back pockets: a centre

half-back and two flankers: a

centre man and two wings;

forward flankers: full forward

and two pockets: also one

ruckman and two forward

pockets who follow the play

regardless and may run up to

12 miles in one game.

North London Lions play at

Mill Hill RFC about 14

matches a year in the league

dominated by Wandsworth Demons, unbeaten in 1995 in cup and league. The cost of

joining is £30 per annum for

which you get a T-shirt, have

your gear supplied and laun-

dered, have a man on the

sidelines with first-aid kit and

whether he keeps a straight

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the game is rough.

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FRIDAY APRIL 12  
Backers to  
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THE TIMES FRIDAY APRIL 12 1996

# Loder paces himself for the classic test

**Richard Evans watches Blue Duster gain high marks in her homework for the 1,000 Guineas**

The headlights of oncoming cars were piercing the early-morning gloom yesterday as David Loder walked across Newmarket's Bury Road to the Limekiln gallops and waited pensively to see if the best horsepower in his stable would shine with similar brilliance.

Out of sight, 6½ furlongs up the trial ground, Richard Hughes crouched in the saddle of Blue Duster and followed the tail of Verzen as the lead horse powered into the misty distance. The next 75 seconds would keep a dream alive — or undermine cherished hopes of classic glory.

After a winter which has stubbornly refused to make way for spring and made the training of young thoroughbreds a nightmare, the tormented and unbeaten filly of 1995 was being asked the first serious question of 1996 — with the 1,000 Guineas little more than three weeks away.

Suddenly, the pair of horses emerged from the mist, Verzen, sensing the imminent challenge, stuck out his neck in an attempt to go even faster and rebut his younger stablemate. And, just as quickly, it was all over.

As Hughes dismounted from Blue Duster and chatted with Ricky Bowman, rider of Verzen and assistant to Loder, the smiles on their faces told one story. "She worked a dream. She has such a high cruising speed, it is unreal," Hughes enthused. "Ricky was going as fast as he could and I was taking her back a peg or two. When I asked her, she



Loder stays in close attendance as Blue Duster and Hughes are led onto the Newmarket gallops yesterday

picked up in two strides and suddenly we had gone three clear. That was her first serious bit of work but she did it so easily."

However, it was the look on the face of Loder which told the real story. His ruddy complexion radiated relief. It is easy to forget, given his meteoric rise to within sight of racing's highest peaks, but Loder, just 32, is only starting his fourth full season as a trainer. Fifty horses three

years ago, 80 last season and 110 this are testimony to his success and the growing burden of expectation.

If he feels pressure, he does not show it. But genuine classic chances do not come along every season, and the elements have not helped as he tries to convert a first opportunity into reality.

"I think Blue Duster is in good condition. We are on course, but the last month, in particular, has not been easy,"

he reflected. "You miss bits of work and then she didn't scope well one week so I didn't work her that day. Then the ground was frozen and I didn't want to take the chance. Now, you don't mind missing one bit of work, but when you start having to miss two or three for different reasons you know things are not running exactly to plan."

She worked last Thursday and the chill factor was minus five — not ideal conditions for

a top-class filly. You have to temper the level of work you are happy to achieve."

If he had felt she needed to run at Newmarket next week I would have been under a lot of pressure and her preparation would have been even less smooth. But I am more relaxed and will take her to Newmarket next Thursday to work after racing."

While Blue Duster remains the centre of classic attention, Loder's strongest ever batch of

## NOTTINGHAM

### THUNDERER

- 2.00 Crystal Fast 3.30 Clever Cliche  
2.00 King Harmony 4.00 Crimson Net  
3.00 Scaramba 4.30 Cuando

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 3.30 HAL'S PAL (nap). 2.30 Farhams. 4.00 Telechath.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM DRAW: 5F-6F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST SIS

### 2.00 WATHALL SELLING STAKES

- (3-Y-O; 52,070; 1m 5yd) (15 runners)
- 101 (4) 8000-00 BLOOMFIELD 60 (T Paine) J. Herts 8-12... D. Gibson 84  
102 (7) 8000-00 CRYSTAL FAIR 60 (T Paine) J. Herts 8-12... D. Gibson 84  
103 (1) 8000-00 CHALALTA IS 70 (M. Lafferty) G. Oldfield 8-12... C. Parker 84  
104 (14) 8-0200 CRYSTAL FAST 21 (D. Morris) K. Letherby 8-12... M. Viegas 84  
105 (10) 0-0000-00 J. HUNTER 231 (D. Morris) K. Letherby 8-12... C. Parker 84  
106 (11) 0-0000-00 GRESHAM FLYER 22 (D. Morris) K. Letherby 8-12... C. Parker 84  
107 (12) 0-0000-00 KARABAR 22 (D. Morris) K. Letherby 8-12... C. Parker 84  
108 (13) 0-0000-00 MOONLIGHT 230 (T. Bowring) S. Mcleod 8-12... C. Parker 84  
109 (14) 0-0000-00 ROYAL RAPPORT 10 (D. Bowring) S. Mcleod 8-12... C. Parker 84  
110 (15) 0-0000-00 SONGS BLUE 326 (C. Parker) N. Tidke 8-12... T. Tidke 77  
111 (16) 0-0000-00 TAKE NOTE 101 (T Cheshire) G. Hobbs 8-12... W. Ryan 76  
112 (17) 0-0000-00 TROTTING 200 (T. Bowring) S. Mcleod 8-12... C. Parker 84  
113 (18) 0-0000-00 DAZZLING STAR 4 (T. Bowring) G. Hobbs 8-12... W. Ryan 76  
114 (19) 0-0000-00 MADONNA DA ROSSI 34 (Smith And Allen) M. Dods 8-12... D. Mcleod 85  
115 (20) 0-0000-00 SISTAR ACT 21 (T. Cheshire) M. Chapman 8-12... T. Chapman 85  
116 (21) 0-0000-00 TURBINE 20 (T. Bowring) G. Hobbs 8-12... W. Ryan 76  
117 (22) 0-0000-00 VENETIA 20 (T. Bowring) G. Hobbs 8-12... W. Ryan 76  
118 (23) 0-0000-00 WINDY 60 (T. Bowring) G. Hobbs 8-12... W. Ryan 76  
119 (24) 0-0000-00 YOUNG 20 (T. Bowring) G. Hobbs 8-12... W. Ryan 76  
120 (25) 0-0000-00 ZEST 20 (T. Bowring) G. Hobbs 8-12... W. Ryan 76  
BETTING: 3-1 Dazzling Star, 6-2 Star Act, 7-1 Crystal Fast, 8-1 Madonina Da Rossi, Take Note, 12-1 Royal Rapport, Music Measures, 14-1 others

1500 NOT CORRESPONDING METRES

### FORM FOCUS

CRYSTAL FAIR 141 2nd of 7 to Remington (D. Morris) in 1m 5yd (15 runners).  
MADONINA DA ROSSI 134 1st of 4 to Prince (P. Parker) in 1m 5yd (15 runners).  
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TURBINE 20 12th of

Unknown veteran makes confident start to first Masters challenge

# Dougherty soaks up the Augusta atmosphere



ANDREW LONGMORE

At Augusta

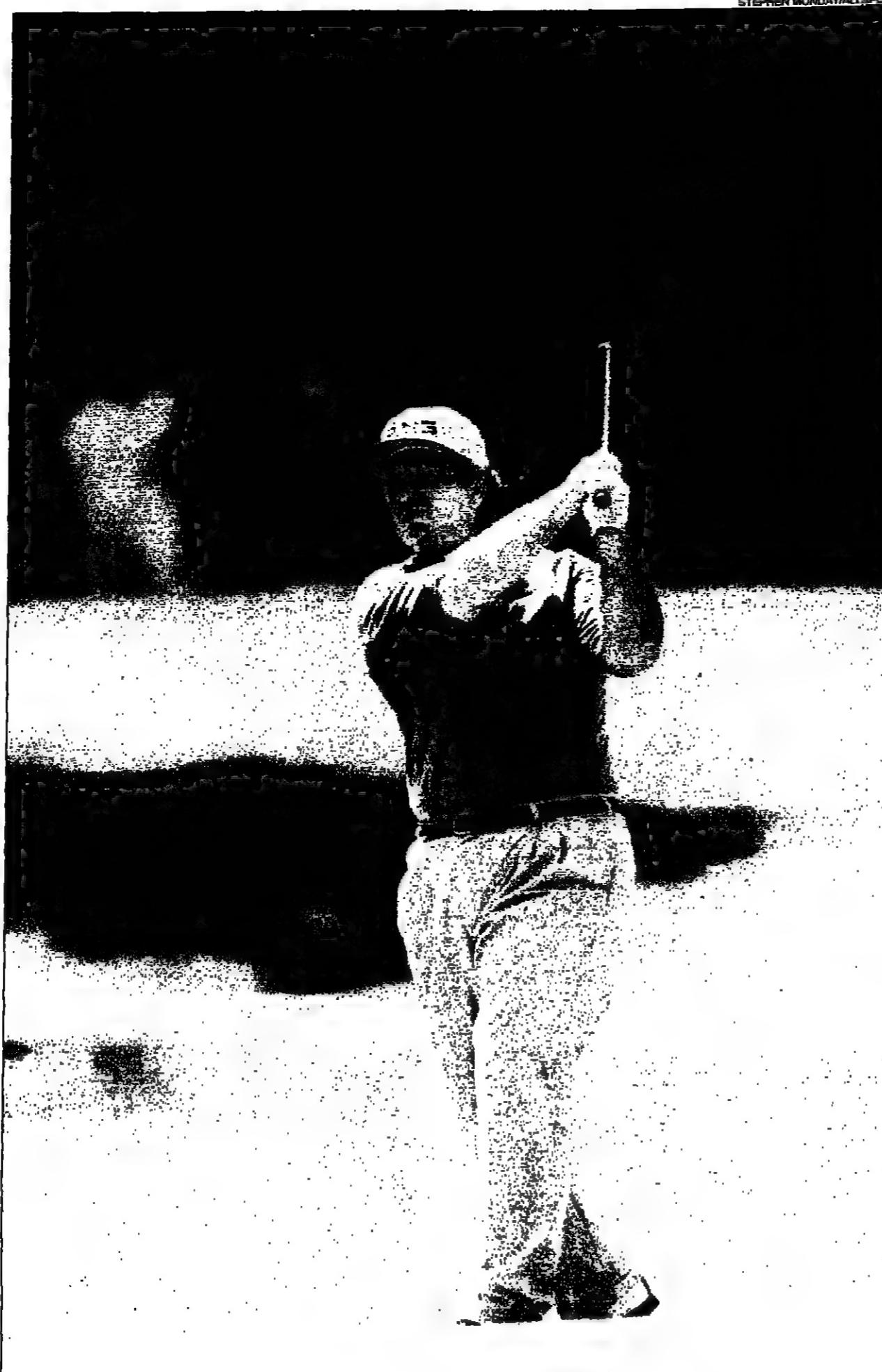
**A**s Ed Dougherty stood on the 1st tee at the Masters yesterday morning, the sunlight breaking through the air still chill, John O'Connor was praying for one more good shot. Just for old time's sake, for the sake of all those hours trudging round the Edmont course together and the 21 years it has taken his old friend to reach the lofty eminence of that 1st tee.

Dougherty, a smile of relief crossing his well-worn face, duly obliged, his drive soaring down the fairway to a position even the man himself never really believed he would find. At the age of 48, Dougherty has waited longer than most to make his debut among the rhododendrons and the cypress trees of the Augusta National and, he admitted earlier in the week, having

**'The thrill of being here. That's why this is so special'**

"I only began thinking about golf when I hit a decent pitch on the 3rd," he said. What had been occupying him before that? "The thrill of being here, the atmosphere, what it will mean to those friends who I've known since I first started playing. That's why this is so special."

Halfway down the 1st tee, Dougherty stopped to share the time of day with friends, not something you might catch Nick Faldo doing at the opening hole of a major. Then he went and hit his second into a bunker — "a horrible shot,"



Dougherty drives to the green at the 18th, completing his first round in the Masters at Augusta yesterday

debut, at the age of 25. "When Jimmie came onto the circuit," Dougherty said, "that's when I began to feel really old."

As advancing age was not enough to contend with, a long-standing neck injury, suffered while moving a pinball machine, has been causing Dougherty pain for some months now. Restoring pin-

ball machines is one of Dougherty's hobbies. Model trains is another, safer, one.

By rights, he should have had an operation done during the winter, but having qualified for the Masters by winning the Deposit Guarantee Golf Classic (such catchy titles) last season, he was not about to risk the accomplishment of his life merely through the

surgeon's knife. "I don't think I would be putting it off for anything else," he said.

It would be nice to report a happy ending to this story, but a double-bogey six on the last ruined an otherwise respectable round. A 76, four over par, still leaves Dougherty with a chance of making the last two days and his pitch into the bank at the side of the 6th.

which bobbed up and landed about two feet from the hole, was the shot of the day, though few saw it.

Even fewer will remember the Doughertys of this tournament come Sunday afternoon. "I guess the Masters has done quite well without me until now," he said. "It will be all the richer for his presence this week, though."

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

**Ford is left out in the cold after Warrington agree sale**

NOT only has Mike Ford been left out of Warrington's side for the visit of Halifax in the Stones Super League tonight, the club has agreed a deal for the former Great Britain rugby league scrum half to join Wakefield Trinity.

Ford, 30, has to confirm the move himself, but appears to have little option. Since leaving Castleford two years ago, not much has gone right for the former Wigan scrum half. A season with South Queensland Crushers failed to work out, while infrequent and indifferent displays have punctuated his short time at Widnes.

John Dorahy, the Warrington coach, said: "Mike showed in our opening game, at Leeds, he is a tremendous competitor. Unfortunately for him, the club sees fit to let him go and perhaps the time is now right for a move. The final decision rests with Mike."

Ford's move to first-division Wakefield would keep him in good company, with Greg Mackie, whom Ford ousted at Warrington, enjoying a new lease of life alongside Garry Schofield at Huddersfield and Shane Cooper directing affairs behind the scenes at Widnes.

Kelly Sheldor takes over at scrum half for Warrington and Mateaki Mafi, of Tonga, and Gary Chambers are recalled at centre and prop forward, respectively, following Monday's defeat at Wigan.

Like Leeds, who yesterday announced the first of three overseas signings — Nathan Pichet, 21, a New Zealand loose forward, previously with Hawkes Bay — Halifax, surprisingly, are bumping along the bottom of the Super League without a win. They had chances to beat London Broncos and Oldham Bears and, abjectly, surrendered an 18-point lead to Castleford Tigers on Tuesday.

Halifax must do without Graeme Hallas, the wing, and Paul Anderson, a prop, who were given two-match bans by the Rugby Football League disciplinary committee last night. Hallas was cited by the League for a challenge on Rob Myler, the Oldham wing, who sustained a broken nose. Anderson was sent off on the same match for a dangerous tackle.

A one-match ban for Karl Fairbank has saved the Bradford Bulls forward from missing the Silk Cut Challenge Cup Final on April 27. His punishment for a high tackle at Sheffield means that he will be absent from the Wembley dress-rehearsal at St Helens on Sunday.

**Disciplined style of rivals sets example to Britain**

FROM NORMAN DE MESQUITA IN EINDHOVEN

**A 6-5 DEFEAT** by Latvia, one of the favourites to win pool B of the world ice hockey championships here, might have appeared a promising start for Great Britain, but the final game on the opening day of the tournament put that scoreline into perspective.

Belorussia beat Switzerland 4-2 in an outstanding game which was played at breath-taking pace and showed both teams to be highly skilled, as well as fast, fit and strong. Although the decisive goal came as the result of a goal-tending error, both goalkeepers made many excellent saves and both teams were highly effective on the break.

When Great Britain led Latvia 5-3, the obvious tactics should have been to play tight and close down the opposition. But British ice hockey places too little emphasis on defence and it was only the fine performance of Stephen Foster in the Great Britain goal that restricted the Latvians to three further goals. Far too often in the later stages of the game, he was left exposed.

Another aspect of Britain's game that must be addressed is the lack of discipline that incurs so many penalties. Three of Latvia's goals were scored with a British player in the penalty box and, while there were one or two refereeing decisions that could have been questioned, the penalties were, on the whole, deserved.

The Britain players must realize that the excessively physical style of play that is tolerated in their domestic game is not acceptable in international competition.

Doug Mason, the Canadian-born coach of the Holland team, believes that this lack of discipline gives his team a realistic chance of beating Britain. "If the referee is on top of it," he said, "Britain could get so many penalties that we will be able to take advantage and beat them, as long as we keep our own discipline."

It must be hoped that the Great Britain coach, Peter Woods, who watched the game between Belorussia and Switzerland, learnt from their physical but disciplined style.

After the Latvia game, Woods was critical of the officials. "The refereeing was a bit one-sided and the penalty which led to their winning goal was something of a mystery call," he said. "We had nine penalties while they had only two, and the refereeing was a major factor."

However, instead of querying the penalty decisions, Woods might be better served trying to prevent a repeat of the ill-discipline which brought them about.

## Pitch battle ends in time

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN IN ATLANTA

THE numerous administrative problems that threatened the cancellation of the six nations' hockey tournament for men and women was played here last August, but the main pitch was taken apart after complaints from participating teams and a ruling by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) that it would not be suitable for an Olympic tournament.

The original intention, Whitney explained, was to hold the six nations' tournament at the Morris Brown College stadium, where the main matches for men and women at the Olympic Games are to be played. Construction delays forced us to abandon the idea of holding the six nations' tournament there and we ran into further problems," Whitney said.

The Clarke University stadium, which has a capacity of 5,000, will be one of two

venues used for the Olympic Games in July. A four nations' tournament for men and women was played here last August, but the main pitch was taken apart after complaints from participating teams and a ruling by the International Hockey Federation (FIH) that it would not be suitable for an Olympic tournament.

The tournament is expected to be in full swing tomorrow, when all the matches will be switched from the practice ground to the main pitch. Great Britain are due to play Pakistan and, on Sunday, will take on India, with whom they drew 3-3 in the qualifying tournament in Barcelona in January.

GREAT BRITAIN SQUAD: S Mason (Reading), D Ludlow (East Grinstead), J Wyatt (Reading), J Halls (Old Loughtonians), Soma Singh (Surreygate), S Hodge (Harrow), S Jackson (Harrow), captain, Kathi Tolker (Camrook), R Thompson (Hounslow), N Thompson (Old Loughtonians), C May (Camrook), G Thompson (Hounslow), R Gaunt (Preston Park, Barcelona), J Shaw (Southgate), C Giles (Havant), M Peam (Reading).

## Dutch warm up with comfortable victory

BY ALEX RAMSAY

CONCEDING five goals is hardly the best preparation for an international against Holland, but it is the best the Great Britain women's hockey team could manage yesterday at Bisham Abbey. The two sides met for a training match as part of the build-up for the televised encounter tomorrow, but the 5-2 scoreline would have done rather more for the Dutch morale.

Britain started enthusiastically, trying to break down a solid defence, but could not find a way through. The enthusiasm waned when they went a goal down. Steenberg hitting from a penalty corner after 24 minutes. Ten minutes later, Holland showed how to slice through a lethargic defence, as Donkers got the second.

Two goals in three minutes in the second half saw the

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# This allegedly sporty vehicle is a non-starter

**R**eaching deep into that magick bottomless pot of critical enthusiasm I keep at my desk (cook, little pot, cook), I will say this about the new ITV drama series *Ellington*: that it really, er, no, what was it? Start again. Yes, *Ellington* is truly, er, come on, think woman. Sorry. No, it's gone.

Great news for Thursday nights, then! A new drama about a sports promoter, starring Detective Inspector Burnside from *The Bill*. And it's indescribably dull! This is the harm that comes from people innocently watching pilots, you see. Eighteen months ago *Ellington* was piloted, and ten million people tuned in. They should not have done that. Sitting at home laughing and jeering ("Right rubbish, this"), those ten million sent the wrong signals to Network Centre, and now, we have seven cheap-looking episodes about an unconvincing square-faced Londoner in a suit, who looks like a

copper, snarls like a copper, smarsh his hair like a copper, and whose whole acting style might be labelled: "Move along now, please, there's nothing to see."

The production notes tell us that when looking for a vehicle for Chris Ellison (clever how they kept the essentials of his name, don't you think?), he laid claim to two enthusiasms: art and sport. So at least we were spared Ellington: Art Promoter. "Your boy Hirst," says a cheaply lit actor you've never seen before, "He won't do as he's told. He likes to do things his own way." Ellington ripostes, "He's the best young artist we've seen for years, and he's going right to the top." Hirst grabs Ellington's arm. "Thanks for having faith in me, Mr Ellington." "If you want to thank me," snarls Ellington, pointing up the steps of the Tate Gallery, "Thank me in there."

The script was terrible, nobody was good-looking, and hilariously,

the production team have decided that the way to convince us that this is the Real World of Sports is to employ real-life sportsmen each week to wave "Hi, Ellington" across a bar. Last night the lucky chump was Ian Botham, and of course the play backfired, simply reinforcing how bogus and banterish the whole thing is. And talking of bathtubs, how about Ellington's tough refusal to succumb to laughably faint persuasion from a female rival sports promoter with fat knees? Listen, "I'm on my own. I'm not interested in mergers, or partnerships... or anything like that!" Great lines of the world, eh?

**S**ignals of a more sophisticated sort were to be found in *Wildlife on One* (BBC1, not Scotland), in which families of Caribbean dolphins clicked and babbled at each other, observed by a bouncy boatload of female Ameri-

## REVIEW

Lynne Truss



can marine biologists. Normally I am rather suspicious of soundtracks in natural history programmes: I assume the noises have been added later in the studio by a man with a tray of gravel and a selection of whistles. But in order to get the requisite cacophony for some of the great underwater set-pieces last night, you would need a room full of buoys variously waving geiger counters, blowing

violently through haircombs, scratching balloons down blackboards, blowing bubbles through a bowl of water, and making "wah wah" sounds like a faraway baby. (If this scene ever took place, incidentally, I would very much like to see it.)

Living next door to dolphins must be hell. The din is appalling. If an aquatic creature is ever discovered with a broom-handled-shaped protuberance on its right fin, we will guess at once the evolutionary logic. Dolphins use sound as a weapon: they sun stun with it, they yell at each other, and they also use it for parental reprimand, regardless of the neighbours. In an extraordinary sequence last night, a little spotted dolphin was told off for messing about. Sternly, his mother escorted him to the sea floor and then sort of drilled him with sound. It looked like a short, sharp shock. When she had finished, they swam back to the

surface together, and she rubbed flippers with him to show there were no hard feelings. To observe and understand such gestures, the female researchers have watched the dolphins for about ten years. It is the best job anybody has got in the whole wide world.

**O**f course, the trouble with cross-species communication is that there is so much unspoken: so much room for misunderstanding. For example, do dolphins really enjoy playing pass-the-seaweed with humans, or do they just hesitate to suggest Monopoly? Similarly, when aliens buzz us from outer space, perhaps they don't wish to bypass the secrecy of governments and reach the common people. Perhaps they just want to test our governments, to see whether we can keep a secret. In which case, apparently, they are rarely disappointed.

Secrets of the Paranormal

(BBC2) gives video equipment and editorial back-up to fanatics, and allows them to make a case. Last night's first instalment was a strong one, in which Jenny Randles conducted research into UFO sightings in a variety of ways, but mainly sorted through files as the Public Record Office. Rather perversely, these paper-work interludes (flip, flip, flip) were the most fascinating, since — unlike footage of "aliens" — such stuff is rarely shown on television.

Randles interviewed ordinary people who'd had close encounters, and who claimed they'd been visited by bowler-hatted heavies from the Ministry of Defence. Do such heavies exist, however? An unofficial spokesman said no, they must be impostors. It was a creepy suggestion worthy of *The X-Files*. Perhaps the men in the bowler hats are aliens, too! All together now: *Boppedy-boppity-boppedy-boppedy hip hip hip hip...*

## Bulgaria

- 6.00am Business Breakfast (32270)
- 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (50831)
- 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (797360)
- 9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (7106522)
- 9.45 Kilroy, Topical Discussion (s) (1266015)
- 10.00 Good Morning (20367)
- 12.00 News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (6963725) 12.05pm Room for Improvement (s) (8747015)
- 12.35 Going for Gold with Henry Kelly (s) (398473)
- 1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax), and weather (6218) 1.30 Regional News and weather (9430270) 1.40 Neighbours (Ceefax) (s) (41649034)
- 2.00 Moon Over Miami (Ceefax) (s) (196218) 2.30 Today's Gourmet (391903)
- 2.15 Secret Life of Toys (886744) 3.30 Playdays (r) (s) (178828) 3.50 Monster Cafe (s) (8965716) 4.05 Casper Cakes (s) (740754) 4.10 Little Mouse on the Prairie (Ceefax) (s) (2978015) 4.35 The Mask (Ceefax) (s) (9577725) 5.00 Newround (Ceefax) (1080676) 5.10 Blue Peter (Ceefax) (s) (1279960)
- 5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (344116)
- 6.00 Six O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (367)
- 6.30 Regional News Magazines (947)
- 7.00 Wipeout, Three contestants compete for the star prize of a holiday (2090) WALES: 7.00 Don't Look Back.
- 7.30 CHOICE Tomorrow's World: The Prince of Wales Award for Innovation (Ceefax) (s) (831)
- 8.00 Hi-De-Hi! The Pay-Off, Classic comedy set in a holiday camp during the 1950s, With Simon Callow and Su Pollard and Ruth Madoc (r) (Ceefax) (1657)
- 8.30 A Question of Sport, David Coleman tests the sporting knowledge of Bill Beaumont and Ian Botham and their celebrity guests, Dominic Cork, David Seaman, Tim Henman and Karen Dixon (Ceefax) (s) (1544)
- 9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (4102)
- 9.30 CHOICE 999, Michael Buerk presents more extraordinary, true tales of heroic rescues (Ceefax) (s) (9902) N.I.: 9.30 PK Tonight 10.20 999 11.20 Golf (12.20-1.40 PM) Hammie Caulder
- 10.30 Golf — The US Masters 1996, Coverage from Augusta, Georgia (s) (88251)
- NB: Due to live golf coverage, subsequent programmes may be disrupted
- 11.30 FILM: Hammie Caulder (1971) with Roger Welch, Robert Culp and Ernest Borgnine A woman begets a human to teach her to how stool, so that she can take revenge on the men who raped her and killed her husband. Directed by Bert Kennedy (s) (598838)
- 12.00 FILM: The Empty Beach (1985) Australian film, or Marlowe Down Under, starring Bryan Brown A private eye is hired to find a crooked businessman who has disappeared. Directed by Chris Thomson (Ceefax) (4068323) 2.20pm Weather (5836253)

## BBC1

- 6.00am Open University: Learning for All (7707270) 6.25 Babies (7728305) 6.50 Windows on the Mind (6705947)
- 7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax) (872707)
- 7.30 Christopher Crocodile (r) (7430638) 7.38 Postman Pat (r) (8613473) 7.50 Peter Pan and the Pirates (r) (Ceefax) (s) (4867299) 8.15 Teenage Mutant Hero Turtles (r) (Ceefax) (7050893) 8.25 The Legend of Prince Valiant (r) (Ceefax) (s) (8150337) 9.05 Mighty Max (s) (7970473) 9.25 F.O.T. (s) (7320893)
- 10.00 Playdays (s) (6551631) 10.25 Star Trek (r) (4263928) 10.50 The Tick (r) (1124980) 11.10 Randall and Hopkirk (Declassified) (r) (6592725)
- 12.00 Great Crimes and Trials of the 20th Century (38270) 12.30pm Room for Improvement (Ceefax) (s) (4288650)
- 1.15 The Royal Institution Christmas Lectures (55) (r) (s) (432299) 2.15 Open View (s) (73721763)
- 2.20 FILM: The Court Martial of Jackie Robinson (1950) with Andre Braugher and Ruby Dee. Re-actée military courtroom drama. Directed by Larry Pearce (534473)
- 3.45 News (Ceefax) and weather (2061744)
- 4.00 Today's the Day (s) (569) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (s) (744) 5.00 Esther (s) (3015)
- 5.30 The Wartime Kitchen and Garden, includes a chocolate cutting war cake as a sweetener and a carpenter's wooden cake (3.8) (r) (Ceefax) (116)
- 6.00 Shooting Stars, Vic Reeves and Bob Mortimer host the sport's beauty pageant (r) (Ceefax) (s) (969)
- 6.30 The Champions (Ceefax) (s) (262557)
- 7.20 Watch Out, Simon King presents A Bird news (765305)



John Martyn in concert (7.30pm)

## CHOICE

- Tomorrow's World: The Prince of Wales Award for Innovation (Ceefax) (s) (831)
- 8.00 Hi-De-Hi! The Pay-Off, Classic comedy set in a holiday camp during the 1950s, With Simon Callow and Su Pollard and Ruth Madoc (r) (Ceefax) (1657)
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## Eurotrash

- Channel 4, 11.45pm

## EUROPE

- The excuse for Eurotrash, which returns for a new season, is that while fully living up to its name, it never asks to be taken seriously. This is rubbish, and often squishy rubbish, but with its tongue planted firmly in its cheek, Potential offence is defused by self-parody and the presenters set the tone. Jean Paul Gaultier and Antoine de Caunes have the distinction of being the best caricature Frenchmen since Maurice Chevalier. Nobody could be more qualified to preside over items which in programme one include rabbit showjumping, a guide to expensive shopping from the supermodel, Carla Bruni, and music from the gay boy band, 4 Guz. A new regular spot features Ralf and Chris from Berlin, old friends of the show, as roving reporters, and there is the obligatory porn star, Tabatha Cash.

## Flava

- Channel 4, 11.45pm
- Pronounced "flavour", Flava claims a television first in the presentation of contemporary black music by offering exposure to performers that the conventional outlets either overlooks or choose to ignore. The idea is to present the best of the young rap, rap-a-tingle, performances, raw and unpolished and unscripted. This may suggest provocative material, rightly positioned in a late-evening slot. If the pilot for the show is an accurate guide, however, the emphasis is more on healthy inhibition than unhealthy subversion. The artists are drawn from both sides of the Atlantic and appear mainly on videos where a thin line divides the imaginative from the pretentious. The line-up for tonight includes Mark Morrison, Pauly and Craig Mac. Peter Waymark

## FLAVOUR

- 6.00am GMTV (2253386)
- 9.25 Fly, Lose or Draw (s) (7114511) 9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (6938290)
- 10.00 Batman — the Animated Series (s) (6553657) 10.25 Cartoon (r) (1640483)
- 10.35 FILM: A Son's Promise (1990) with Rich Schroeder. Made for TV, weepie based on the true story. Directed by John Foy (s) (44341473)
- 12.20pm HTV News (Teletext) (6565909)
- 12.30 News and weather (Teletext) (3864270)
- 12.55 Murder, She Wrote (s) (7843367) 2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (5473808) 2.25 Chain Letters (Teletext) (s) (5474027) 2.50 The Good Health Guide (Teletext) (4086305)
- 3.20 News (Teletext) (7841580)
- 3.30 Zzzap! (r) (8077367) 3.45 The Wind in the Willows (r) (Teletext) (s) (452181) 4.15 Garfield and Friends (5072146) 4.25 The Geeks (Teletext) (2078034) 4.55 Hang On (s) (4030328)
- 5.10 A Country Practice (s) (6925742)
- 5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (5729471)
- 6.00 Home and Away (r) (Teletext) (s) (6856111)
- 6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (116102)
- 6.45 Sportsweek (Teletext) (315724)
- 7.00 Bruce Forsyth's Play Your Cards Right (Teletext) (s) (635351)
- 7.30 Coronation Street: Steve is suspicious about Alec's return (Teletext) (239)
- 8.00 The Bill. Sun hosts a party for police pensioners and widows (Teletext) (68725)
- 8.30 The Upper Hand. When Laura gets carried away at a casino, Caroline's quick thinking saves the night (r) (Teletext) (s) (8860)

## WESTCOUNTRY

- As HTV West except:

- 12.55 Coronation Street (3805989)

- 1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (79225725)

- 1.55 Home and Away (68325980)

- 2.25 High Road (5473183)

- 2.55-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (2769760)

- 3.10 Home and Away (62257421)

- 3.45-4.00 Westcountry News (745809)

- 10.45 Film: Young Einstein (2822034)

## CENTRAL

- As HTV West except:

- 12.55 Home and Away (3805989)

- 1.25 Chain Letters (79225725)

- 1.55 Home and Away (68325980)

- 2.25 High Road (5473183)

- 2.55-3.20 Gardeners' Diary (2769760)

- 3.10 Home and Away (62257421)

- 3.45-4.00 Westcountry News (745809)

- 10.45 Film: Young Einstein (2822034)

## MERIDIAN

- As HTV West except:

- 12.55pm-1.25 Chain Letters (3205939)

- 1.25 Home and Away (3205939)

BLUE DUSTER  
SHOWS POLISH  
IN GUINEAS WORKOUT

# SPORT

FRIDAY APRIL 12 1996

CRICKET 38

CAKE TURNS BACK  
ON FURTHER  
FIRST-CLASS HONOURS

Ballesteros recalls Augusta heyday with inspired recovery shots

## Gilford shows first round mastery again

FROM JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, IN AUGUSTA

THE Masters reveres tradition and, at Augusta National Golf Club, it is now traditional that David Gilford did so on his first visit to this famous tournament, in 1995, not allowing himself to be overtaken as he walked in the footsteps of so much history. In his quiet, understated way, he did so again yesterday.

It was not for long in 1995, and it was not for long yesterday. Bob Tway, playing with Ted Tryon in the match ahead of Gilford, came in with a 67, five under par, to be the early leader in the first round. However, he was rudely shouldered aside by a storming 65 by Phil Mickelson. The left-hander, many people's favourite to win here, had an astonishing inward half of 30.

Nevertheless, the name Gilford, accompanied by the red figure 2, to indicate he was two under par, appeared on leaderboards all over the course, and for a time there was no one to challenge him. Two under after three holes, Gilford jumped to four under after he eagled the 13th.

No other golf course in the world has such a capability to defend itself against anyone taking liberties with it. It offers the velvet glove one minute, the iron fist the next. The velvet glove had been professed on the 13th. Gilford's three-iron ended 12 feet from the hole and he sank the putt for a three on a hole where players are sometimes grateful to escape with a five. As Gilford stood on the 16th tee, a six-iron in his hand, he might have sensed he was about to be hit by the iron fist.

All week there has been a biting wind in this part of Georgia. This, combined with morning and evening cutting of the greens, made them as fast as in recent memory on the opening day. Gilford's ten shot on the 16th ended 30 feet from the flag, which was positioned in the top right-hand corner of the green. His first attempt on this notorious

ly tricky green, which is exceptionally fast, almost stopped by the hole.

"I hit it a smidgen too much," Gilford said. The result was that, after almost coming to a halt, it slowly gained momentum and began running back down the green.

It ended further away than it had started. Welcome to Augusta, to what Johnny Miller calls "the spring putting contest."

Gilford's next putt shot past the hole, so did his next and it was with some relief that he holed out for a five, a double bogey. Gilford's excessive quietness is not a front. He really is as imperturbable as he seems and thus characteristic

aged between 2½ and six years old. I have never had a case of BSE. Normally my cattle would fetch £150 each, but now I suppose they are worth nothing." He paused and smiled before adding: "I am still eating beef."

Right on cue for the start of the sixtieth Masters, the temperature rose and what could pass for a proper spring sun in these southern states of the United States came out to shine on Gene Sarazen, Sam Snead and Byron Nelson as they performed the opening ceremony. Sarazen, Nelson and finally Snead, whose ages total 261 years, all drove from the 1st tee in a vivid, Proustian tableau, a blessed remembrance of times past.

All three found the fairway,

which was more than could be

said for Severiano Ballesteros,

who bunkered his drives at the

1st and 2nd, at the short 4th,

and the long 8th. You would

not have known it from his score.

With the sort of wizardry

that must have impressed

his young nephews who, with

their father, Manuel, were

leading the Ballesteros sup-

port group, he saved par on

the 1st and 2nd and squeezed a

birdie out of the uphill 8th to

reach the turn in 35.

His swing on the raised 10th

tee looked as smooth as ever,

etched in the mind's eye

against a background of pine

trees, but in attempting to

draw his drive so that his ball

would land and bound down

the slope, Ballesteros overdid

it. The ball ricocheted from a

tree on the left of the fairway

and stopped perhaps 230

yards from the tee, 60 yards

behind Jeff Maggert, not a

notably-long hitter. From a

downhill and sidehill lie,

Ballesteros hit a thin-looking

iron shot that ended short

left of the green. Again his

short game came to his rescue.

He pitched to nine feet and

hit a birdie. He had a par

four for a 69, one stroke

ahead of Paul Azinger.

In the United States, Gilford

is known not only for his soft-

spoken nature and his putt to

defeat Brad Faxon in the last

Ryder Cup. Word that he is a

gentleman farmer has reached these shores too,

bringing with it numerous

jokes about mad cow disease.

"A one-man farm can sometimes be 250 acres; mine is 50,"

Gilford said. "It really is a

hobby. I have 25 to 30 cattle



Tway: early leader

came to his rescue now for regrouping himself and his emotions, he hit a nine-iron to four feet and sank it for a birdie, his third of the day, on the 17th. He finished with a par four for a 69, one stroke ahead of Paul Azinger.

In the United States, Gilford is known not only for his soft-spoken nature and his putt to defeat Brad Faxon in the last Ryder Cup. Word that he is a gentleman farmer has reached these shores too, bringing with it numerous jokes about mad cow disease.

"A one-man farm can sometimes be 250 acres; mine is 50," Gilford said. "It really is a hobby. I have 25 to 30 cattle

played the first two holes on his own. "It was weird," the New Zealander said after his 71. "It was like going to a wedding without the bride."

It was a lot less weird, however, than Sam Torrance's 80, his worse score here by four strokes. For Torrance, for whom so much seems to be going so well, this was a rare setback and in marked contrast to the brilliance of his playing partner, Mickelson.

That recovery marked the start of a good run. He came back in 35, one under par, thanks to a birdie on the 15th, and his 73 is a better score than you would have thought possible if you had watched him driving on the 1st and 2nd holes. Augusta, a course and a place Ballesteros adores, may yet prove to be a welcome stop on his journey to recovery.

For Frank Nobilo, like Gilford playing in his second Masters, it provided a new experience. Peter Jacobsen, his playing partner, had withdrawn only moments before teeing off suffering from sore muscles in his chest. Nobilo

had a line (10)

One from Birmingham (7)

Expert (slang) (3,4)

Nymph loved by Cupid; the soul (6)

Trickster (5)

Excessive (5)

The solution to 73 will be published Wednesday, April 17



Gilford acknowledges the applause of the appreciative gallery during his superb first round at Augusta

## EARLY FIRST-ROUND SCORES

US unless stated, par 72
GB: P Mickelson
87: R Tway
88: L Janzen
89: D Gilford (GB), B Faxon
70: P Azinger, S McCarron, S McCormon
71: J Aarøn, J Maggert, F Nobilo (NZ), N Price (Zimb), S Lowery
72: T Byrd, H Sutton
73: S Ballesteros (Sp)

\* amateur

74: D A Weibring, J Stuman, M Roe (GB), A Palmer

75: G Brewer, B Casper

76: K Triplett, E Dougherty, N Lancaster, T Heron, B Hammer

77: B Bryant, M McCumber, I Baker-Finch (Aus)

78: G Maruscić, S Torrance (GB)

81: D Fox

82: C Coody

83: P Jacobson

84: Brian Law

85: Brian Law

86: Brian Law

87: Brian Law

88: Brian Law

89: Brian Law

90: Brian Law

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CRICKET

# THE TIMES

40P

No. 65,553

SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

Portus  
Club  
offer me  
Broiling  
Escape



## France's fading stars

Kate Muir  
on the  
death of  
haute cuisine  
WEEKEND



Anatole Kaletsky  
on life under Labour  
Part one, PAGE 20

## Saturday night with Gaby

and 7-days  
of TV and  
radio in  
VISION

Win £2,600

to spend at your  
favourite supermarket

WEEKEND,  
PAGE 10

## Summer of '96

40 pages  
of men's  
fashion

MAGAZINE



## Middle class? John is still working class, says Mr Prescott senior



BY ANDREW PIERCE  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT, who made the ultimate leap for new Labour yesterday when he abandoned his working-class roots and announced he had joined the middle classes, was rebuked by his 85-year-old father last night.

The deputy Labour leader, whose class warrior approach to politics and abrasive rhetoric had often seemed at odds with Tony Blair's attempts to modernise the party, took even his enemies by surprise.

Challenged about Labour's move away from its working-class traditions on Radio 4's Today programme yesterday Mr Prescott, former ship-

ping steward and MP for Hull East, replied: "I can tell you, I'm pretty middle class."

Nobody was more astonished by his class conversion than his father, John, a former railway signalman,

who said: "He is the son of a railwayman and grandson of a miner. How can he be anything other than working class?" John worked as a steward on ships serving drinks to well-to-do passengers. If that's not working class I cannot think what is.

When I see him I shall ask him what he thinks he's playing at. He should be proud to be working class. I am."

Mr Prescott, 55, and his wife, Pauline, live in an eight-bedroom house with crenellations on the edge of smart detached houses on the edge of

East Hull, known locally as "Prescott Towers".

Mr Prescott senior, who lives in a £32-a-week one-bedroom council flat in Chester, said: "I live in the hope of seeing him in an even bigger house. The one at 10 Downing Street. But he would still be the same working-class lad I brought up."

"John has had to work all his life, which makes him working class. I know some people think they can move up a class if they get on a bit but they are daft. Once you are working class that's the end of it. There is too much middle-class talk in today's Labour Party."

Mr Prescott senior, a Labour Party stalwart for 60 years, former councillor and magistrate, said: "I had small

savings with the Red Cross and cashed in all my insurance policies to buy the house. John has a grand big house and garden but that does not put him up in a different class."

"It's because of his working-class values that he has become what he is. I am very proud of him. But he has to stop this middle-class nonsense. Some boys still listen to their father, you know, no matter how old they are."

There was also disappointment in Hull at Mr Prescott's conversion. John Canves, secretary of Hull Trades & Labour Club, said: "We don't want any truck with this middle-class talk here."

At the Belmont social club in his constituency they were not surprised. Leslie

Runkie, the secretary, said: "He is a hypocrite. They are all as bad."

Harry Woodford, a Hull Labour councillor and Mr Prescott's agent, said: "I don't care what class anybody is as long as they vote Labour."

Ken Turner, shipping grades organiser in Hull for the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union worked on the ships when Mr Prescott was a steward and has known the MP since 1964. "He's not lost any of his working-class values, his position remains as it always was on the side of the workers."

Mr Prescott was unmoved: "Only in England could you have a big argument about class."

Is class a myth?, page 5



Father: astonished

## 'Soul-searching' plea by Redwood

# Right calls for change after poll collapse

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY AND PETER RIDDELL

JOHN MAJOR faced a fresh outbreak of unease in the Tory party last night as right-wing MPs demanded a change of direction in the wake of a devastating by-election setback for the Government.

Hours after the Labour Party inflicted a stunning defeat in the Staffordshire South East by-election, turning a Conservative majority of 7,192 into a Labour one of 13,762 and reducing the Government's majority to one, senior Conservatives issued a warning of further electoral losses unless new policies were introduced swiftly.

A string of right-wing MPs called for further tax cuts and clearer policies on Europe to win back voters. John Redwood, the former Cabinet minister, led criticism of the party's recent strategy by attacking the lack of vision and demanding a "moral crusade" of tax-cutting to win back Tory supporters. Writing in *The Times* today, Mr Redwood calls for some "soul-searching" by the Conservatives, and says that the by-election result should not be "brushed aside too readily by the Government. People's worries should be taken seriously."

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The Times on the Internet:  
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Defeat aftermath.....  
John Redwood.....  
Anatole Kaletsky.....  
Leading article, letters.....  
Graham Searle.....

change of course to attract Tory voters, insisting that more work needed to be done "to get our message across". But Tories voiced fears that further heavy defeats in next month's local elections could allow Labour to build up an unstoppable momentum.

Although the Prime Minister conceded that the by-election defeat was disappointing, he tried to calm Tory nerves by telling MPs not to over-react to the result and by reminding them that the party had bounced back from by-election setbacks to win general elections.

"I remember many people consigned the Government to oblivion after the Ribble Valley by-election, where the swing was the same. We went on to win the general election a year later with the largest popular vote ever. I am disappointed by last night's result, but politics is not an easy ride. I am here to do what is right and stick with it."

It was Mr Blair's claim that the result showed Labour as a new party of the centre ground that prompted Tory right-wingers to press for a more distinctive approach from the Government.

Nicholas Budgen, a leading right-wing Tory MP and Eurosceptic, said the party had not been radical enough and too much attention was being given to the so-called "middle ground".

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, appeared to support calls for a change of emphasis. He said: "Yesterday's by-election must be the signal for a new Conservative crusade to alert people to the dangers they face from a Labour government."

In London, Mr Major made clear that he is not preparing a

new Conservative party leader like a prime minister in waiting.

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# THE TIMES ON MONDAY



## ADVENTURES FOR A LIFETIME

How to win an adventure holiday every year...  
for the rest of your life...  
and start collecting  
our vouchers for  
reduced-price holidays

times and road signs  
lock and cut jobs  
iters' hope

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

# Edwardian documentary keeps it in the family

AN ENDURING belief that Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother has harboured a life-long grudge against the Duke of Windsor for compelling King George VI unwillingly to the throne, precipitating his untimely death, was challenged yesterday by her grandson, Prince Edward.

Queen Elizabeth, like other members of the Royal Family and household, had been put in an impossible position by her brother-in-law's decision to marry a divorcee, and was never able to acknowledge publicly the existence of the former Wallis Simpson in any way, the Prince said.

The Prince was attending the preview of a two-part documentary on the Windsors that he has written and presented, to be screened later this month. He answered questions on why the programmes almost entirely ignored the riddle of the 1936 abdication, which still intrigues historians: did the then Duchess of York, the future Queen Elizabeth, hate the upstart American?

Prince Edward said: "There are all sorts of stories involving the Queen Mother which I believe are factually inaccurate. She, like every other lady in the household at the time, was put in an utterly impossible position by Edward's decision."

"They were never going to be able publicly to acknowledge her in any way. The inevitable gulf that occurred

■ The Duke and Duchess of Windsor are the subjects of a new television documentary, Alan Hamilton reports

has been interpreted by people to say it was a deep-seated and personal matter which, from all that I have discovered, just isn't the case."

The Prince added: "None of the Royal Family was interviewed for these programmes. I did not feel it necessary to put them through that."

In the documentaries, Prince Edward defends his great-uncle against the charges of some historians that he was a Nazi sympathiser or even collaborator. In the first programme he says: "The Duke may have been awkward, selfish and intransigent but there is no evidence

that he would ever betray his country." He said he had found no evidence to support the theory that there had been an official cover-up over the Duke's supposed links with Nazi Germany.

The Prince, having had privileged access to George VI's private diaries, nevertheless makes it clear that the Duke's meeting with Hitler in 1937 caused dismay in London, King and government were furious that the Duke had undertaken the mission, albeit in the hope of persuading Hitler against war, without giving warning in order that he might have been better briefed and ad-

vised. But the Prince asserts that, for all his faults, the Duke of Windsor was utterly loyal and merely laughed when a Spanish emissary acting for the Nazi German regime suggested that Hitler would install him as puppet king of a conquered Britain, with a crown on his head and a swastika on his car.

The documentary details farcical attempts by German and Spanish agents to keep the Duke in Spain during the early years of the war, when he wanted to sail for the Bahamas to take up his post as governor.

Ramon Serrano Suner, Spanish Interior Minister in 1940-42, tells the Prince in the series: "France wanted to keep him here because we thought he would be an English king more favourably disposed to Spain. On the other hand Hitler thought he could manipulate him so he could instigate a revolution in England."

The Duke's obsession with minutiae played into the hands of the enemy agents. Unwilling to leave for the Bahamas without his best bed linen, he sent a maid to occupied France to retrieve the sheets from their Paris house. The maid was captured by German agents and held along with the pillowcases in the hope that the Windsors would miss their boat. They caught it.

□ *Edward On Edward* will be shown on ITV at 10.45pm on April 23 and 30.



The Duke and Duchess in Berkshire after the war



Prince Edward and the Gerald Brochurst portrait of Duchess of Windsor

THE true Edward's Duke of veteran televis. Desmond Wilcox, iton writes.

Three years ago Wilcox gave a tour of the Windsor home in Paris, restored by present owner Mohammed Fayed. Determined to make a film on the Windsors in exile, Wilcox approached Prince Edward with the suggestion that he might like to write and narrate the programme. The Prince immediately agreed.

"What has raised the status of this particular programme is that it is an important story from recent history, being shown on the sixtieth anniversary of the abdication," Prince Edward said yesterday.

The programme's real origins will do little to dispel criticism that Ardent Productions has ridden unashamedly on the back of its royal connections, despite the Prince's declarations when the television company was set up in 1993 that it would stand on its own two feet. He is joint managing director with Eben Foggin, a former BBC TV drama executive. His next major project is a documentary about Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother.

Other programmes have included an edition of the motoring programme *Top Gear* for the BBC and *Annie's Bar*, the poorly received Channel 4 comedy.

## Son explains why he ended patient's pain

BY BILL FROST

AN ELDERLY cancer victim died after her son gave her a massive dose of medical heroin "to ease her agony". Last night the man called for new laws to allow mercy killing as police investigated the death.

Alice Rowbottom, aged 80, was unable to eat, drink, move or speak without crying when her family saw her last Wednesday at North Manchester General Hospital. Her son Derek said: "I knew my mum would not leave me like that if I was in agony."

His mother, as on a drip of diamorphine (pharmaceutical heroin) to counter the pain "so I kept pressing the button on the pump to administer more intravenous drugs. I just wanted to keep her out of pain and let her pass away peacefully. I don't think she even knew who I was at the end."

Mr Rowbottom, 44, from Ashton-under-Lyne, said: "The diamorphine was being pumped into her stomach through a box. I had seen another patient in a corridor with one of these boxes and he showed me the pump booster button. When no one was looking I pressed the button on my mum's box so the drug would go in as quickly as possible. I asked the nurse for more because she was still in pain, then I emptied the new supply as quickly as I could."

The nurse saw me doing it then asked me to stop, but I wouldn't. She called the sec-

urity men and the police and I didn't administer any more. My mum had taken all the diamorphine I could give her and she was completely rested in no more pain."

The next day Mr Rowbottom was contacted by the hospital and told his mother's condition had deteriorated. She was dead by the time he arrived at her bedside.

The following day the police came to see me and said they understood there was a high level of diamorphine in my mother's blood and they wanted to ask me about it. I told them, "Look I know what I've done and I would do it again". I know she would have done the same for me if I had been in her situation. I sat down with my mum and I said I'm sorry. I just wanted to help her. There was nothing else I could do.

"If what I have done helps change the law or helps anyone else, then that is good. I want the law changed to make things easier for patients and relatives of patients to end their suffering."

Mr Rowbottom's wife Jennifer said: "The law is crazy. I would want Derek to do the same thing for me in that situation."

A police spokesman said that Mrs Rowbottom's death had been reported to the coroner, who had asked for an investigation. No arrests had been made.

The nurse saw me doing it then asked me to stop, but I wouldn't. She called the sec-



Alice Rowbottom and her son Derek, police called

## Man who 'dispensed' cannabis goes free

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A MAN who gave away cannabis to chronically sick people in a Scottish fishing port escaped a jail sentence when the judge learnt of his care for his sick wife. Martinus Van der Lee, 50, who works with the disabled, was sentenced to three years' probation yesterday after he admitted supplying and possessing the drug.

Van der Lee started giving cannabis to his wife, Kathleen, who was seriously injured in a car accident five years ago, to ease her suffering. The crash had left her with a mental age of 8, violent shakes, a speech impediment and severe mood swings. Van der Lee claimed his wife's shaking stopped and the mood swings eased.

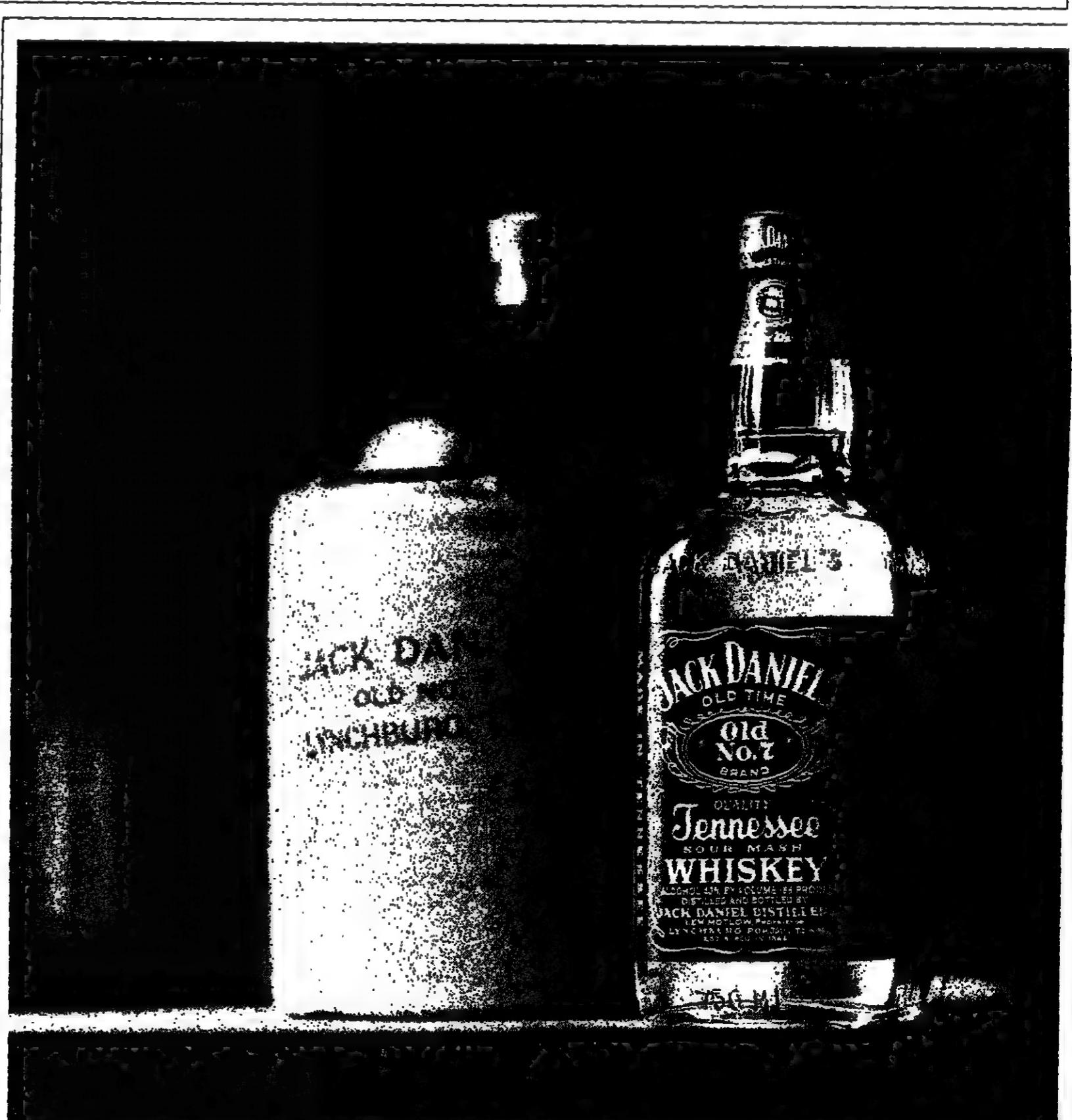
The former merchant navy chef was open about what he was doing and word spread in Peterhead, Grampian. He started giving the drug free to the sick and dying. It was used to alleviate cancer, multiple sclerosis and glaucoma.

His activities came to a halt when police caught him with 1.5kg of cannabis in his car. In total, he had £10,000 worth of the drug in his possession.

Yesterday in the High Court in Inverness, Van der Lee admitted illegal possession and, being concerned in the supply of several kilos of cannabis throughout the Highlands and Islands.

The judge, Lord Johnston, told him: "This is a very difficult case. I can understand your motive and I follow what you were trying to do but I cannot condone it. Normally I would send you to prison but in these very special circumstances, and taking your wife into account, I believe what you did was more stupid than wicked."

Later, Van der Lee said he would continue rolling cigarettes for his wife but they would be made from tobacco. "This is the end of my involvement in drugs. I have been given the opportunity to stay with Kathleen and I won't let the judge down."



If you'd like to know more about our unique whiskey, write to us for a free booklet at the Jack Daniel Distillery, Lynchburg, Tennessee USA.

**NO ONE KNOWS** for certain why Jack Daniel labeled his prize whiskey "No. 7."

Some say it was his lucky number. Others say it was his seventh recipe. One story has it that, early on, a young clerk marked a batch of Mr. Jack's whiskey with the number 7 for bookkeeping purposes. Folks started writing the distillery to order "more of that No. 7 brand." The real reason why our whiskey is called Old No. 7 remains a mystery. But after a sip, there's no mystery why folks still order it.



JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

## Payout to vandal overturned

BY TIM JONES

A BUSINESSMAN who defended his country home against attack by stone-throwing youths from a nearby council estate had his conviction for common assault and criminal damage overturned yesterday.

David Verney, 54, jumped into his Range Rover and drove out of his moated home to chase two youths after he heard the sound of breaking glass in his greenhouse, Gloucester Crown Court was told. Mr Verney, a property developer from Uckington, near Cheltenham, threatened

to report the boys to the police but instead found himself in front of Coleford magistrates in January. They gave him an absolute discharge, but ordered him to pay costs of £200 and £40 compensation to one of the boys to replace a ripped football shirt.

Mr Verney, whose wife Barbara is a magistrate at Cheltenham, won his appeal against conviction when Michael de Navarro, QC, the Recorder, stopped the case. He said that Wayne O'Shea, 14, the alleged victim, and another boy, aged 13, had given conflicting evidence on which no court could convict.



She has ruled for as long as most of us can remember, yet we know her scarcely at all.

As the queen approaches 70, the award-winning writer William Shawcross investigates the enigma at the heart of Britain

*News Review — The Sunday Times tomorrow*

## Schools may reject pupils if parents oppose discipline

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

SCHOOLS are to be allowed to turn down pupils whose parents refuse to accept policies on discipline, Gillian Shephard said yesterday.

The Education and Employment Secretary is also planning legislation in the autumn to give schools the same powers as the police to detain children. This would end the right of parents to stop schools from using detention beyond school hours as a punishment for unruly children.

Mrs Shephard, in a speech to the annual conference of the National Association of Schoolmasters and Union of Women Teachers in Glasgow, promised laws to force parents to take more responsibility for the behaviour of their children. There would be sharper penalties for the parents of persistent truants, and those whose children have been expelled twice could lose their right to choose a school.

She refused to say what the penalties for parents of truants

might be, but government advisers have called recently for parents to be fined or lose state benefits if they cannot teach their children to behave.

"Some of these measures will be possible through new guidance," she said. "In other areas legislation will be necessary and we will provide it."

The Labour Party said last week that it would allow schools to suspend pupils for a term. In an apparent attempt to match this pledge, Mrs Shephard indicated that she

would allow schools to exclude pupils for 45 days at a time instead of the current maximum of 15 days a term.

She said: "Without an orderly atmosphere in the classroom, effective teaching and learning cannot take place. Teachers should not have to put up with violent pupils who disrupt lessons."

Later she said: "We need to look at linking parents' wishes with requirements for good, acceptable behaviour. The

majority of parents are supportive to schools and their children, but where they are not there needs to be a reminder of their responsibilities."

Nigel de Gruchy, general secretary of the union, welcomed the recent attention to school discipline from Labour and the Conservatives but said that tougher measures were needed years ago. Last year a survey found that as many as 15,000 youngsters were being expelled every year.

The union favours more pupil referral units, or "bins", to rid classrooms of unruly children. "Everyone asserts the child's right to an education, but I would challenge that," Mr de Gruchy said. "If they break their contract with a school they should forfeit that right. No one wants to send these children into limbo, but I do not want my members and the majority of children to remain in hell because of disruptive pupils."



Inmates at Armley prison in Leeds slopping out for the last time. One said: "We've got a lot more dignity now"

## From April you must get into this routine

Jump to it, the first Self Assessment tax year starts on 6th April 1996. From then on, if you usually receive a tax return form, you'll need to make a record of your income and expenses.

### What records do you need to keep . . . ?

They include bank and building society statements, dividend vouchers, business earnings and receipts, payments to employees or sub-contractors, cashbooks and any other documents that could relate to your tax. Filing these details as you go along will make it easier to fill in your first new-style Self Assessment tax return in April 1997.

### How to avoid penalties . . . . .

There will be a clear timetable setting out what you have to do by when. Keeping to the right dates for sending back your tax return and making payments will mean you avoid interest and penalties.

### Read the leaflet in your next tax return . . . . .

To find out more, look out for the special leaflet on Self Assessment we've included with your next tax return.

We've also prepared free information guides to help you. If you'd like copies just send us the coupon or telephone our special number anytime. (All calls are charged at the local rate.)

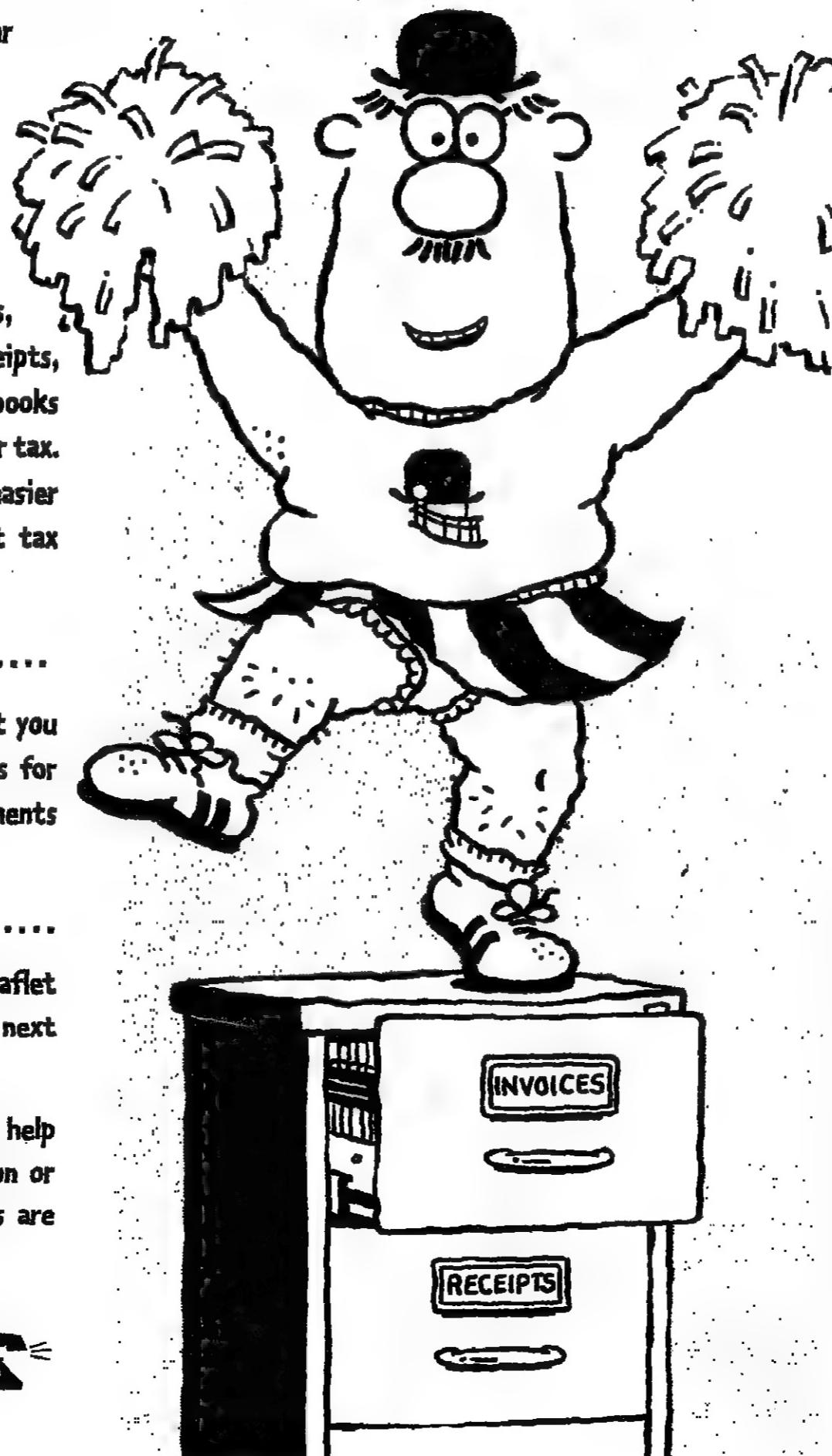
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<http://www.open.gov.uk/inrev/irleaf.htm>

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Self Assessment - a clearer tax system



Please send me more information about Self Assessment. Please tick a box if you are:- Self-employed  Employed  A Pensioner  Seeking work

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PLEASE RETURN COUPON TO: SELF ASSESSMENT PO BOX 555 BRISTOL BS9 5UJ

JPP/10150

## Inmates slop out for the last time

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

INMATES at Armley jail ended a prison ritual yesterday when they slopped out for the last time.

Ann Widdecombe, the Prison Minister, was in the Leeds jail to mark the completion of a £60 million programme to install sanitation in cells in 135 jails in England and Wales.

The drive to end slopping out, a target of penal reformers, was only six weeks short of a deadline recommended by Lord Woolf in 1991. Until he recommended speedy action to end the practice, the Home Office had not expected slopping out to end in jails until the next century.

Glenn, an Armley inmate, said integral sanitation had improved morale for everyone. He added: "Before, you had to make sure you had been to the toilet before hanging up time because after that you had to use the bucket and slop out with everyone else the

next morning. Now we've got our own toilet and sink. It's much cleaner and we've got a lot more dignity."

Since 1991 more than 20,000 toilets and washbasins have been installed in 96 institutions. Some cells at Armley have both. In other parts of the jail three cells have been turned into two with a bathroom in the centre.

Miss Widdecombe said the prison service had "reached a milestone in history". She added: "One of the prisoners just said slopping out is prehistoric and he is quite right."

Ironically Victorian prisons had cell sanitation but much of it was ripped out this century to provide more space for prisoners. Stephen Shaw, of the Prison Reform Trust, said: "They missed their target by six weeks but this is still a remarkable achievement."

*Victim's pain, page 8*

## Overhaul of mental care urged by charity

By ADRIAN LEE

THE mental health charity SANE yesterday called for an overhaul of community care legislation after a series of crimes involving former patients. The Mental Health Act needed updating to protect patients and the public. Marjorie Wallace, the charity's chief executive, said:

"Far too many mistakes were being made under the current laws, introduced 13 years ago," Ms Wallace said. SANE is seeking new criteria on the discharge of mentally ill patients, and more involvement in the process for their families. The group also wants consideration given to the feelings of victims."

Ms Wallace said: "Because of all the headline cases involving a minority of violent patients, everyone who is mentally ill is finding it harder to be accepted into the community."

SANE, which handles 1,000 telephone calls a week from people seeking help, is to extend its support service and employ a lawyer on cases. It will write to every MP to seek support for its campaign.

Ms Wallace said that in the past year there had been 24 mishandled cases that had resulted in inquiries.

## Lawyers told to cut down on sentences

By PETER FOSTER

THE legal profession, master of the sub-clause and the 60-word sentence, was told to get to the point yesterday by the Plain English Campaign. It condemned words such as "aforementioned" and "hereinafter" as old-fashioned and cumbersome.

Chrissie Maher, the campaign's director, said: "Lawyers are frightened to say what they mean. People need to be able to understand what has been written on their behalf. It's nonsense to say that everything has to be written in fancy English."

The campaign has produced a book, *Language on Trial*, to help lawyers to overcome the urge to write jargon. "With respect to" shrinks to "about"; "for the purpose of" becomes "to" and "at this point in time" is "now".

Richard Thomas, director of public policy at the international law firm Clifford Chance, said that lawyers were no longer quite the windbags they once were. However, he added: "Too many lawyers write to impress others inside the profession. Good legal writing should not look as if it is written by a lawyer at all."

## Steady on, take a drink

By NICK NUTTALL

IT MAY not be news to some darts and snooker players, but scientists have found that alcohol helps to steady the hand.

Researchers from Birmingham and Edinburgh universities suggest that up to four units of alcohol is the magic amount for keeping hand tremors under control — although "next morning someone might shake more than before".

The findings, disclosed at the Edinburgh Science Festival, suggested that as an alternative to teetotallers could

put their hands under running water from the cold tap. This had improved the aim of Olympic pistol shooters and helped to improve life for people suffering from diseases such as Parkinson's.

The study measured the hand tremors of thousands of people. In religious groups, Church of Scotland ministers were found to suffer more than nuns or muslims.

Medical students and general practitioners emerged as the slice of the population with the shakiest hands. Journalists and eye surgeons, thankfully, had low tremor scores.



THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

HOME NEWS 5

John Prescott claims to be upwardly mobile. Eight social commentators measure his progress

## Labouring the point: just what is a class act?

John Prescott, the no-nonsense voice of the Labour Party, yesterday announced his defection to the middle classes. In an unguarded moment he told Radio 4's *Today* programme "I can tell you, I'm pretty middle class." Yesterday *The Times*

endeavoured to find out just where Mr Prescott, former merchant navy steward, stood on the social scale. We asked academics, social commentators and advertising gurus to define class differences and assess Mr Prescott's position.

**BEING** working class is no longer a badge of honour in Labour Party politics, according to Ben Pimlott, Professor of Politics at Birkbeck College and biographer of Harold Wilson. "Once Labour MPs could not resist mentioning their grandparents' working-class roots. But the move away from that is symptomatic of the move towards American-style politics. In America the middle-class is the equivalent of our working class."

Professor A.H. Halsey, author of *Social Class and Educational Opportunity*, said: "Of course John Prescott is middle class. You have to

define class by people's present position. But that doesn't mean that he can forget that his origins lie somewhere else. The same applies to about a third of the population. We need a more subtle definition of class which recognises that duality."

One Labour MP, at least, is still proud to be working class. Ken Purchase, a former toolmaker and now MP for Wolverhampton North East, said:

"Maybe not by income, but by attitude I am definitely working class."

Dame Barbara Cartland

was once asked in a radio interview if she thought class

barriers were breaking down. "Of course they are, my dear," she replied. "Otherwise I wouldn't be talking to you." Yesterday she said: "Nobody cares about class any more. You can be anything you like these days. I think it is dreadful because people have such appalling manners."

"As far as I am concerned someone of good class is someone who keeps their word, is charming and behaves like a gentleman. But England is so rude. We have lost the majesty of smartness, people are so scruffy and even the Royal Family are not as royal as they might be."

She said she still believed herself "very much upper class". Her household addresses her with her title.

Her fellow novelist, Lord Archer of Weston-super-Mare, said: "I have always thought John Prescott to be rather upper class, with his Jaguars, double-breasted suits and holidays in Barbados. I think it is wonderful he has said this. Next thing he will announce he is voting Conservative."

Tony Parsons, presenter of the BBC2 programme *Parsons On Class*, said: "It just proves that there is no longer any shame in admitting you are middle class. If John Prescott claimed to be working class it wouldn't make him a champion."

land he was sponsored by Cheshire County Council to study for a diploma in economics and politics at Ruskin College, Oxford. He went to Hull University where he gained a BSc in economics. He became an MP in 1970, sponsored by the National Union of Seamen.

The deputy Labour leader had left school without any qualifications. He went to a secondary modern in Ellesmere Port, having failed the 11-plus.

His two sisters and two brothers, who were younger, all went to grammar school. Their mother Phyllis, who has remarried and is a Labour party member, taught needlework.

Mr Prescott bought his house near the village of Sutton for £28,000 in the early 1970s but it is now valued at around £100,000.

He drives a second-hand Daimler, spends most of his holidays in the Caribbean, with his wife Pauline, a former hairdresser, whom he married in 1961. She is a full-time housewife and MP's wife. They have two sons.

The Prescotts' constituency house in Hull

## The 11-plus failure who worked his way up decks

JOHN PRESCOTT was the eldest of five children and attended Brinsworth Primary School, Rotherham.

The family lived in rented accommodation until he was 11 when his parents bought their first home, which was in Chester.

After leaving school in 1953 he worked as a trainee chef in hotels for two years, joined the Labour Party in 1956 and went to work on passenger shipping lines scrubbing decks in 1955 before becoming a steward.

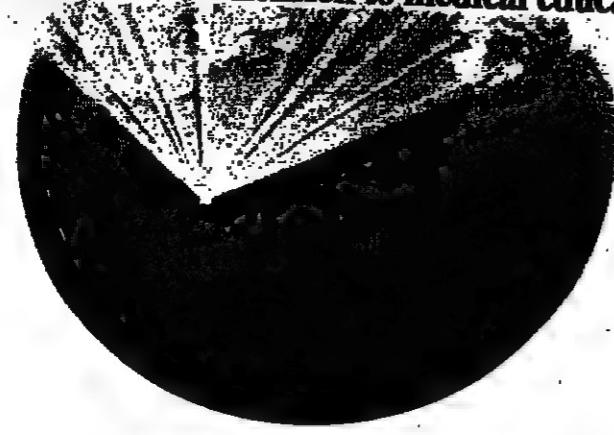
When he returned to dry

land he was sponsored by Cheshire County Council to study for a diploma in economics and politics at Ruskin College, Oxford. He went to Hull University where he gained a BSc in economics. He became an MP in 1970, sponsored by the National Union of Seamen.

The deputy Labour leader had left school without any qualifications. He went to a secondary modern in Ellesmere Port, having failed the 11-plus.

His two sisters and two brothers, who were younger,

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Beer bottles to the fore, John and Pauline Prescott enjoying the glitz of a comedy awards presentation evening

Education is the key to social position

BY STEPHEN FARRELL

ADVERTISERS, famous for their division of the population into alphabetic and numeric classes, would summarise John Prescott as an aspirer.

"Middle-class is broadly meaningless," said Paul Tivy, group chief executive of the advertising agency Bates Dorland. "The most important determinant of behaviour is educational background rather than disposable income."

"Yes, we would classify him [John Prescott] as middle-class by his purchasing habits, his house and car and the fact that he persisted with his education. But artificially I would have thought, before today, he would shudder at the idea of being middle class."

"John Prescott epitomises the good old-fashioned Labour Party Socialist in a party more and more overtly middle class under Tony Blair."

Social class definitions:

A Professionals: chartered people; high-ranking service people.

B Those with a large amount of responsibility, such as middle management, lecturers.

C1 All others doing non-manual jobs, such as nurses and police sergeants.

C2 Skilled manual workers who served apprenticeships.

D Semi-skilled and unskilled manual workers, labourers.

E Those of lowest levels of subsistence, such as pensioners and the unemployed.

on of the people, it would make him a hypocrite.

"He has two homes and earns nearly £40,000 a year: he is middle class. The class you were born into isn't necessarily where you stay. The middle class covers such a broad spectrum now, from Mr Patel at the corner shop to a barrister."

Michael Young, a sociologist and director of the Institute of Community Studies, said: "Mr Prescott would not be regarded by many as pukka middle class because he was born into a working-class family, but under traditional guidelines, since he was not a manual worker, he could call himself middle class."

"Forty years ago Labour MPs would have been stressing their working classness. Now things have moved the other way and they are more inclined to call themselves middle class."

"Class was always something that was in people's minds. It is a subjective notion and if someone says they are working or middle class who is going to say otherwise?"

"Generally the working and middle classes were defined by manual and non-manual

jobs, but in the 1950s it was the working classes who saw themselves as the real workers, the bedrock of the country. They were proud of it and actually saw themselves as superior to non-manual workers.

"Over the past few decades there has been a decline in the number of manual jobs and an increase in jobs in the service industry which has eroded boundaries and made the picture more confused. People might be on very low incomes — such as parsons — but they would still categorise themselves as middle class, so

we cannot use pay as a yardstick. It comes down to what people think they are."

Ivor Spencer, who runs a school for butlers, said: "The class system certainly exists and we will never have a classless society in Britain. How ever much money you have there are still clubs you can't get into. There is a them-and-us situation."

He said that he knew people, with "new money", who employed a butler to give the appearance of belonging to a higher class. "You can't buy class, it is something you are born into."

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Psychological Society conference told of first study into long-term effects of accident on children

## Suicide and illness haunt survivors of sea disaster

REPORTS BY DOMINIC KENNEDY

CHILDREN who survived a sea disaster in Greece eight years ago are more likely to have considered suicide or suffered mental illness than classmates who remained in Britain, according to one of the largest studies of adolescent disaster survivors.

Of 400 pupils rescued from *SS Jupiter*, a cruise ship that sank in a Greek harbour in 1988, more than two thirds had suffered mental illness and 52 per cent had post-traumatic stress disorder, the British Psychological Society annual conference in Brighton was told yesterday. The schoolwork of survivors suffered and they were three times more likely than their peers to become depressed. One survivor took her life and 9 per cent of her companions have attempted suicide.

The Institute of Psychiatry study shows for the first time the long-term effects of such a disaster on children. The findings emerged in interviews

with survivors, now in their early twenties, and a group of their peers.

Stephanie Boyle, a researcher at the Institute of Psychology, London, said: "A lot of mothers reported a 'child of mine went away and I got back an adult'. The children returned with a feeling that the world was dangerous and serious. They were much more cynical and worldly wise. The loss of innocence is quite notable because they were relatively young."

Survivors told researchers: "I don't really trust anybody any more, I don't believe what people tell me." Dominic O'Ryan, Ms Boyle's colleague, said: "Some no longer plan for the future because they feel the future can be cut short."

The *SS Jupiter* had just set sail from Piraeus harbour with nearly 400 English children aged 14 and 15 on board for a week-long educational cruise. The liner was rammed amidships by the freighter

### DEPRESSION

Cheltenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education psychologists who interviewed four police officers and four ravers. The police see others involved with the rave scene as largely consisting of drug dealers and those who organise and otherwise make a profit from ravers.

Ravers see themselves as rational, acting through choice but outside mainstream society, which they perceive as hostile and ignorant of rave.

"This is important because, to police raves in an effective and humane manner, the police need to understand the culture they are dealing with," the researchers said.

Serial killers usually murder their first victim close to home, psychologists from Liverpool University said. "There is a certain amount of impulse involved in all these crimes, even the most deliberate." More serial criminals have burglary on their records than sexual crimes.

**Victim's pain, page 8**



Survivors from the *SS Jupiter* leaving a rescue ship

## Today's Caveman pays high price for macho style

MALES

approval of men who fail to meet these requirements.

Research by the University of Central Lancashire found significant numbers of men approved of statements such as "real men don't give up because of fear," and "men who take part in yoga and ballet deserve to be ridiculed". They also agreed that "wife-swapping is fine as long as both men agree", and "real men don't back away from bar-room confrontations".

John Archer, an evolutionary psychologist from the university, told the conference: "They all reflect the notion that manhood is an acquired, rather than an ascribed, status which must be earned by courageous action." His study involved 600 men aged 17 to 45 from the Preston area of Lancashire.

Cavemen are most prevalent in the Army, among the unemployed, amateur soccer players and manual workers including joiners, labourers and drivers. Caveman values were found in uniformed jobs such as the fire brigade, automobile breakdown services and police, engineering and building and masculine sports including American football, rugby and weight training.

Cavemen show an interest in aggressive sports, enjoy danger, view women as sex objects and believe men should be able to hold their drink. "It can be argued that at the root of all this is the notion of proving to others and ones self that you are hard and tough," Dr Archer said.

### GLASS

by other children while girls thought it was being physically attacked.

Girl bullies tended to prefer psychological techniques against their victims, including sneaking behind their backs, methods that boys also adopted as they grew out of punching and kicking each other.

A tenth of children in the study in North Staffordshire were being bullied.

Domestic violence can be predicted by rainfall, according to a study of three years of records from London. Non-domestic violence increased when the weather is warmer, psychologists from Nottingham University discovered.

## Ostracism is feared more than beating

### BULLYING

BEING sent to Coventry is worse for children than being physically bullied, according to a study of 200 junior and secondary school pupils aged 8 to 12. Those who were psychologically excluded by their peers felt more depressed, lonely, anxious, dissatisfied and worthless than those who were being beaten.

Children and their teachers see physical victimisation as the most harmful form of bullying but it may have fewer long-lasting effects, according to psychologists from Keele University.

Studies have shown that children who were socially excluded by their classmates grow up to be depressed, anxious and shy. Boys thought the worst type of bullying was being shunned

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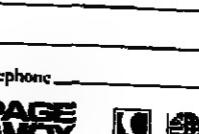
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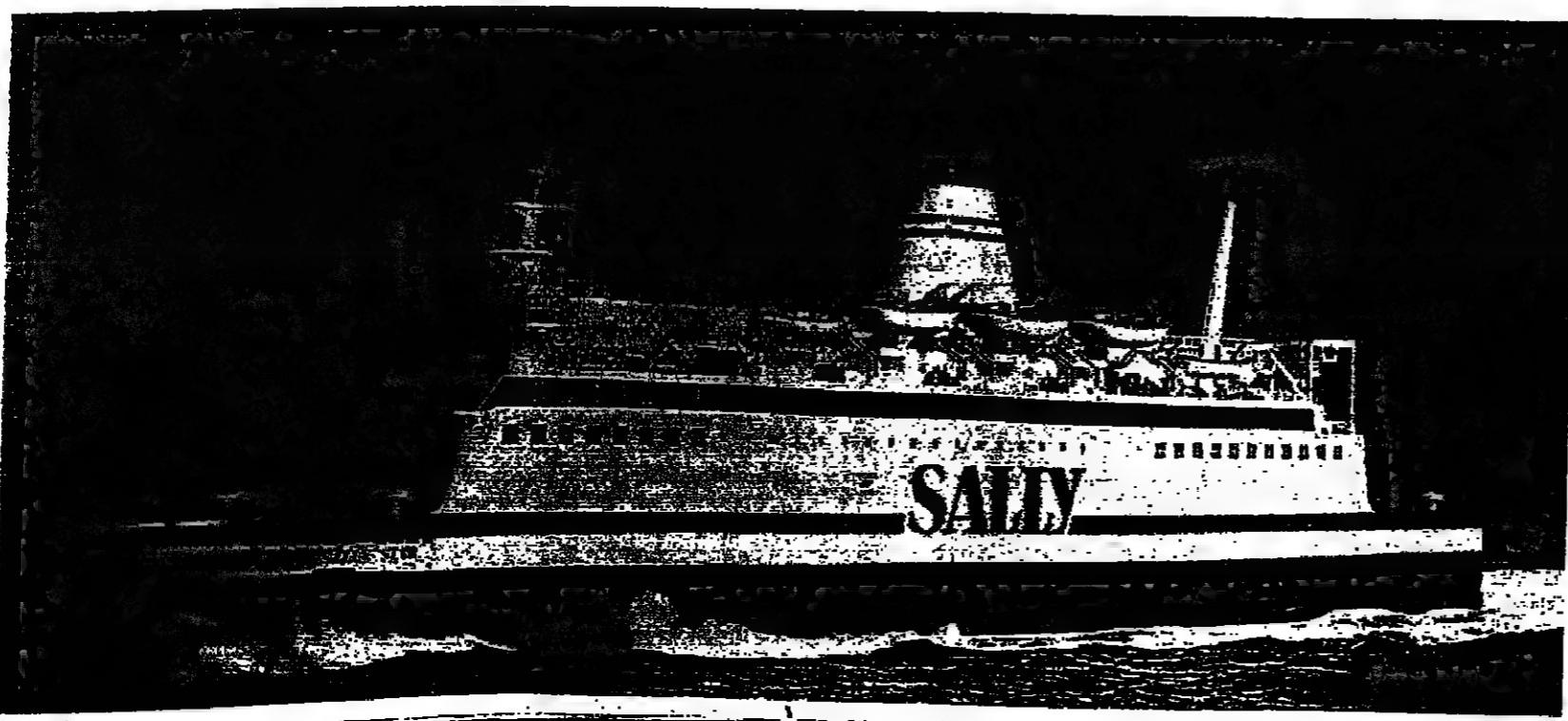
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Howard's proposals criticised

# Taylor rejects plan to link jail term and victim's pain

By RICHARD FORD  
HOME CORRESPONDENT



THE Lord Chief Justice launched a fresh attack on Michael Howard's sentencing proposals yesterday, condemning minimum jail terms as an unwelcome American import. Lord Taylor of Gosforth also spoke against the belief that ever-longer prison sentences would be better for the public and victims of crime.

Lord Taylor unveiled his own proposal to reassure victims of crime. He said that the judiciary should consider the victims' interests when imposing sentences on convicted criminals.

He said police should provide prosecutors with a report of the impact of crimes on the lives of the victims. The prosecution would then be able to put the effects of the crime to the judge for consideration before sentences were passed.

However, Lord Taylor said that the suffering of victims could not be allowed to dictate the length of sentences. He added that it was "quite wrong" to believe that longer and longer sentences would somehow be better for the public and would help to curb crime.

He told the Today programme on BBC Radio 4: "The notion that if you sentence longer and longer it's going to be better and better for the public is quite wrong. The public has an interest in seeing that people are rehabilitated and, of course, they should

be punished appropriately."

"But the idea that because a particular victim has suffered very severe injuries, let us say, there must be absolutely comparable injury or detention on the perpetrator is, I think, inappropriate."

Later, in his first public comments since a government White Paper announced minimum sentences for repeat burglars and drug dealers and automatic life sentences for second-time sex and violent offenders, the Lord Chief Justice reopened the argument between the judiciary and the Home Secretary over sentencing.

Mr Howard's White Paper predicts that 12 jails will have to be built to cope with the minimum 10,800 increase in prison population resulting from his tough new sentences. Lord Taylor told his audience that "in the current stampede to build new prisons", he hoped the continued funding for Victim Support would not be forgotten by the Government.

He described minimum sentences, a key part of the Government's plans to deal with offenders who commit several domestic burglaries and dealers in Class A drugs, as an "importation from the American legal system which we can well do without".

Although his speech to a Victim Support event in his

native Newcastle upon Tyne made no mention of Mr Howard, it was clear that the Home Secretary was his target.

He said that to treat crime solely from the point of view of victims risked looking at the system "through the wrong end of the telescope". Lord Taylor spoke against making the "highly fashionable errors of viewing the criminal justice system primarily as a matter of sentencing".

The typical reaction of most of the population was that sentences were too lenient, Lord Taylor said. A recent survey by the Nuffield Foundation had found that 70 per cent or fewer convicted rapists were sent to prison, when in fact the correct figure was 91 per cent.

With the Government and the judiciary preparing to argue the merits of the White Paper proposals, Lord Taylor conceded that sentencing was a matter of acute public concern. He welcomed debate on the subject as entirely healthy in a mature democracy, while emphasising that it should be an "informed" argument.

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The card was criticised for encouraging drunkenness

## £3,000 for the first card of Christmas

BY OLIVER AUGUST

A PROOF copy of the world's first Christmas card fetched £2,990 at auction yesterday. An American collector bought the 1843 card, which sparked an industry worth £30 million last year.

It shows three generations toasting the health of an absent friend, a scene criticised by some Victorians for encouraging drunkenness. The message reads: "A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to You."

The card was designed by John Calcott Horsley for the reformer and educationist Sir Henry Cole. Sir Henry had 1,000 copies printed to send to family and friends.

He kept only two proof copies. In 1865 he sent one to his daughter Henrietta and the other, inscribed "The first Christmas card", to Lady Dorothy Nevill, who was related to Horace Walpole.

Lady Dorothy, a distinguished hostess, author, gardener, painter and collector, died in 1913. The card was among a collection of her memorabilia put up for sale yesterday at Christie's by a descendant.

Also sold were two locks of hair from the head and beard of Edward IV. An American buyer paid £517 for the two lots, taken from the king when his tomb in Windsor was opened in 1789.

□ A unique block of ten Penny Black stamps, ranked among the world's top ten rarities, is being offered for sale at £300,000. The block was issued on May 6, 1840, the date of the introduction of stamps. It will be the centrepiece of the Stamp '96 Exhibition at Wembley Conference Centre this month. The sale is being handled by Stanley Gibbons.

A woman whose car broke down in north London used an aerosol oil spray to fend off a man who attacked her with a knife. He stabbed her arms and hands but fled when she sprayed WD40 in his face.

ACTRESS BANNED

The death of a three-year-old who caught her neck between the top of a slide and a metal support has prompted an urgent investigation into the slide's safety. Amy Grieveson died on Monday, six days after the incident.

Her mother, Kirsty Docking, 24, of Newcastle upon Tyne, called on the Early Learning Centre to stop selling its large slide, saying it was unsafe because the support bars were immovable. Ian Duncan, the firm's chief executive, said he was urgently seeking more information about the incident before deciding whether to withdraw the model.

POLAR FREEZE-OUT

Pen Hadow, from Dartmoor, abandoned his attempt to walk solo to the North Pole from Ward Hunt Island, Canada, after breaking a ski and a ski-pole six days into his 486-mile trek. An aircraft is to fly him off the ice cap.

ACTRESS BANNED

Letitia Dean, the former EastEnders star, was fined £750 with £50 costs and banned from driving for 30 months by Tower Bridge magistrates after she admitted driving her sports car on March 1 while double the legal alcohol limit.

ATTACKER FOILED

A woman whose car broke down in north London used an aerosol oil spray to fend off a man who attacked her with a knife. He stabbed her arms and hands but fled when she sprayed WD40 in his face.

DROP OF ICE

A 60lb block of ice that fell 10,000ft from an aeroplane embedded itself in the ground by the home of Gerald and Jean Redfern in Hulland, Derbyshire, under the Manchester airport flightpath.

BEEF BLOCKED

The Ministry of Defence is to withdraw ration packs from an Anglo-American exercise in North Carolina because they might contain products that could be construed as breaching the ban on beef exports.

FERRY GROUNDED

The Belgian-owned North Sea car ferry Prins Filip ran aground outside the entrance to Ramsgate harbour early yesterday morning, leaving 335 passengers stranded for three hours while the tide rose.

CLEAN AWAY

Thieves have stolen an outdoor lavatory being exhibited by a Russian art show in Limerick. Irish police fear the lean-to, which has been shown around the world, may have been taken for firewood.

BEING SWALLOWED UP IN VICTORY

O DEATH WHERE IS THY VICTORY?

O DEATH, WHERE IS THY STING?

THE AFFIRMATION THAT THIS VICTORY HAS BEEN GIVEN US IN JESUS CHRIST, HE GOES ON:

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labour is not in vain."

WHAT AN EXTRAORDINARY, COMFORTING WORDS THESE ARE, THAT OUR LIFE'S WORK, WHEN IT IS IN THE LORD, IS NOT IN VAIN.

SOMEHOW, ALL THE GENUINE

GOING PLACES

# Death holds no sting when we serve our God

Richard Harries

good that we are able to do will be gathered up and preserved for all eternity.

When these words are read at funeral services, as they so often are, few will be able to share Paul's conviction about the Resurrection of the Dead, which is the theme of this whole chapter.

For we know that the body decomposes and becomes part of the whole cycle of nature. We cannot imagine ourselves climbing out of graves like figures in a Stanley Spencer painting.

What we can believe as Christians, however, is that though the darkness may close in on us at death, God's knowledge of us does not end at that point. We remain known in his mind and cherished in his heart.

We have very little idea about who we really are. Am I my true self at nine, 19, 39 or 99? Only God knows. And what God knows, our true self, will be reformed, or re-clothed in a manner appropriate to eternity. For Christ is risen and nothing can destroy or take away from our life lived in him.

MUCH, perhaps most of what we think important about ourselves, will no doubt drop away, being of little significance in the light of the standards of the Kingdom where the last shall be first and the first shall be last.

BUT ALL THAT WE DO "IN THE LORD", THAT IS WORK THAT IS IN ACCORD WITH HIS WILL OF LOVE, ALL THAT IS IN UNION WITH CHRIST THROUGH FAITH AND PRAYER, ALL THIS HAS A FUTURE IN GOD.

WE HAVE ABSOLUTELY NO IDEA ABOUT THE CONDITIONS IN WHICH THIS HOPE WILL BE REALISED, THOUGH OUR BEST HUMAN EXPERIENCES MIGHT GIVE US SOME GUESSES, BUT THIS HOPE IS FUNDAMENTAL TO CHRISTIAN TEACHING. WE SHOULD GIVE OURSELVES PERMISSION TO BE LIBERATED BY IT, SO WE MAY indeed abound in the work of the Lord.

□ The Right Rev Richard Harries is Bishop of Oxford.

At Your Service Weekend, page 13.

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CR

AN

Prescott challenges Major to have 'the courage to face Labour' and let the nation decide now

## Tories stunned by huge margin of by-election defeat

By JAMES LANDALE AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

**THE** Conservatives had braced themselves for defeat in the Staffordshire South East by-election, but the margin of defeat — 13,762 votes — has shaken the party.

The victory by Labour's Brian Jenkins, who captured the seat with a swing of 22 per cent, delighted John Prescott, the party's deputy leader, who yesterday challenged John Major to hold an immediate general election.

The Tories were unprepared for the scale of their defeat. During the final days of canvassing, Jimmy James, the Tory candidate, was telling all listeners that victory was within reach; but his party colleagues were briefing journalists to expect a defeat of about 5,000 votes.

By the eve of polling, the defeatist message appeared to have filtered through to Mr James, when he emphasised that the seat held by his party since 1983 should not be considered a Tory heartland but a marginal.

The defeat was especially galling as the Tories had fielded one of the most impressive candidates of recent by-elections and had fought the strongest contest since the last general election. Alan Duncan, the Tory MP for Rutland and Melton, proved a ferociously energetic "munder" to Mr James and was tireless in giving Labour as tough a



Jenkins and grandchild Emmeline Saunders

contest on the ground as they have had in recent clashes with the Conservatives.

But while there was less

evidence of the bitterness towards the Government that had dominated other recent by-elections, Labour strategists were confident throughout that Conservative voters were switching in droves to back Tony Blair's party.

Mr Jenkins may not have been the most sparkling campaigner, but he was well known as leader of Tamworth Borough Council and was supported by a cavalcade of national Labour politicians, including Mr Blair, who made three visits to the constituency.

Yesterday his deputy was celebrating with party workers in the Midlands constituency. "If the Tories want to, the best way of testing [their support] is to have a general election," Mr Prescott said.

John Redwood, page 20  
Leading article and Letters, page 21

"I thought we had a good chance of winning this seat," he said. "I am obviously disappointed but I respect the decision of the voters. I think the new seat of Tamworth is extremely winnable at the next general election."

Labour claimed yesterday's result was

the bigger triumph, which could not be

dismissed as a mid-term protest but

which pointed towards deeper Tory

disaffection. "This is a crippling result for

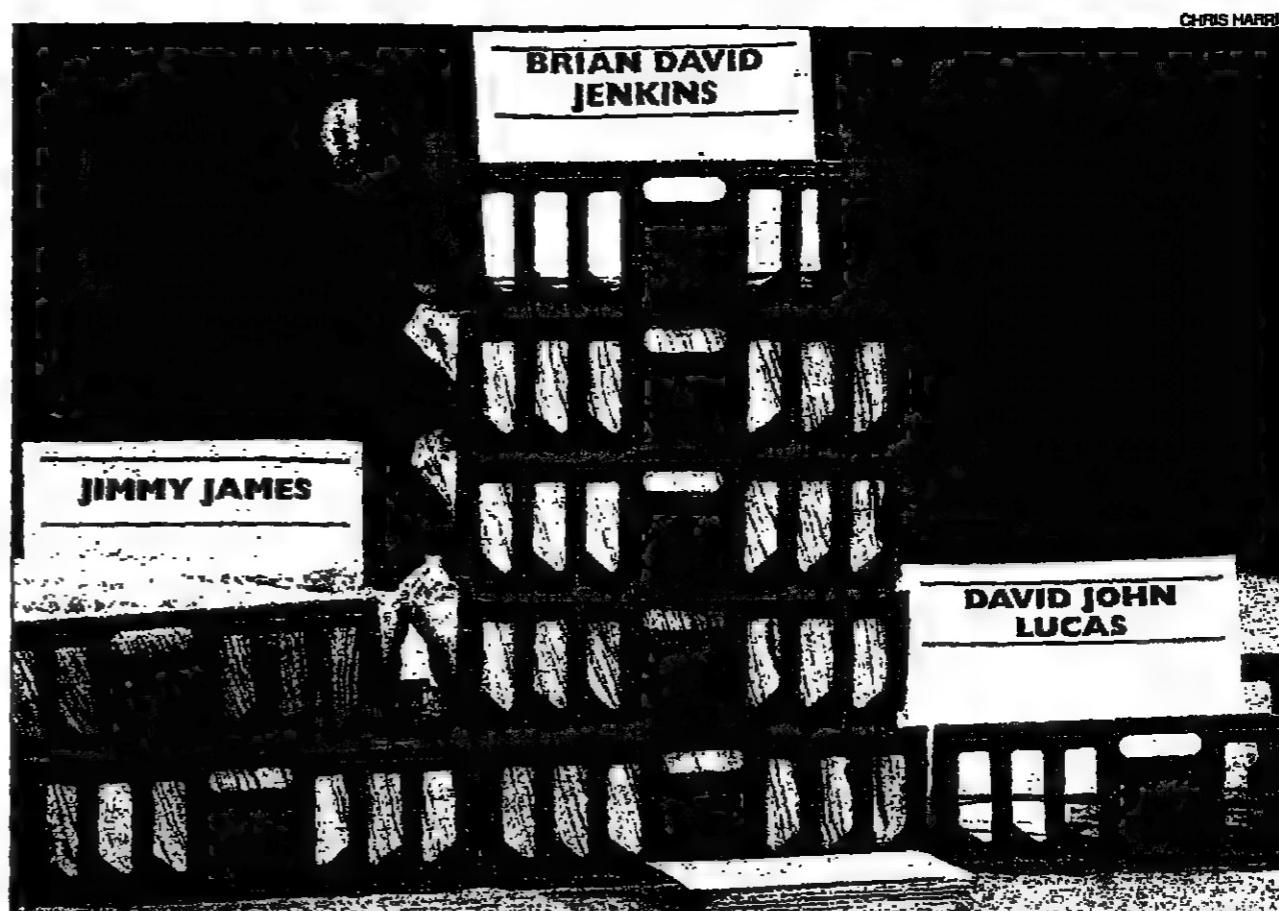
a Government that knows that a general

election may only be months away," one

Labour figure said.

Before Dudley, Labour's biggest post-

war swing had been the modest 12 per



The gap between Labour's Brian Jenkins and other candidates was evident at the count from baskets of votes

## Making the most of the swing factor

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

LABOUR's sweeping by-election victory in Staffordshire South East brought the party its second largest post-war swing, 22 per cent. Only Dudley West in 1994 bettered it with a 29 per cent swing away from the losing Conservatives.

Labour claimed yesterday's result was the bigger triumph, which could not be dismissed as a mid-term protest but which pointed towards deeper Tory disaffection. "This is a crippling result for

a Government that knows that a general

election may only be months away," one

Labour figure said.

Before Dudley, Labour's biggest post-

war swing had been the modest 12 per

cent when it took the Vale of Glamorgan from the Tories in 1989.

However, the two main parties were yesterday using carefully selected snippets of by-election history to bolster their hopes of victory at the next general election.

Euphoric Labour leaders were comparing the Staffordshire result to the Langbaugh by-election in November 1991, five months before the last general election, in which Labour took the Conservative seat with a swing of 3.6 per cent.

Strategists, contrasting that with yesterday's 22 per cent swing, said it

bettered the 1994 result.

Conservatives preferred to point to the

Ribble Valley seat, lost to the Liberal Democrats in March 1991 on a 24 per cent swing in the wake of public anger over the poll tax. They won the seat back in the following general election. In 1986 the Conservative seat of Ryedale was lost to the Liberal Alliance but was won back as

Margaret Thatcher's Government swept to a 100-seat majority at the 1987 general election.

Before the 1983 general election, the Thatcher Government suffered few by-election reverses. However, it did lose the Glasgow Hillhead seat to Roy Jenkins of the SDP/Liberals in March 1982, then went on to secure a resounding 140-seat majority in the general election in May of the next year.

PETER RIDDELL

## Balancing act allows Mr President to please rival leaders

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

BILL CLINTON obviously likes and approves of Tony Blair. But the President has to work with John Major, possibly for another year — and after a rocky start, he has come to respect the Prime Minister and enjoy a reasonable working relationship.

So the White House has engaged a careful balancing act over the visit of Mr Blair to Washington. At the same time on Thursday evening as

Hillary Clinton was having a friendly and at times animated 20-minute chat with the Labour leader at a private reception, Mike McCurry, the White House press spokesman, was delivering a deliberately even-handed message about good relations with Mr Major to the reporters travelling with the Labour leader.

The same themes were reiterated yesterday when Mr Blair visited the White House. All this was a carefully coordinated exercise between the White House, the British embassy in Washington and the Labour leader's office. This twin-tracked approach makes political sense as a balance of preference and

necessity. Not only does Mr Clinton have to deal with Mr Major, but relations are genuinely better than they have been. Resentments caused by the intervention of Tory party officials in the 1992 American campaign are now seen as in the distant past, if not forgotten. More to the point, the differences of 1992 over Bosnia and Northern Ireland no longer exist. There is close agreement about the deployment of Nato forces at present, rather closer than there might be with a Republican president. There have been no complaints from the British side about the White House's cool treatment of Gerry Adams since the end of the IRA ceasefire.

Mr Clinton and Mr Major also see eye-to-eye on reducing trade barriers across the Atlantic, the Middle East and the present uncertainties caused by elections in Russia. To emphasise their closeness, British officials point out that the two leaders are meeting in Moscow in a week's time.

These are the necessities of international diplomacy. Politics is different — and the warmth of the greeting offered by President Clinton, and by Mrs Clinton's decision to meet Mr Blair, are clearly intended as friendly signals of political allies. The interest

shown in Mr Blair's visit by the business and media elite is because he is now regarded in America as the Prime Minister in Waiting. Mr Blair has at times appeared stunned by the degree of interest and by the warmth of the reception. It may not win many votes but it shows how political expectations are changing in Washington as well as at home.

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# Letters help to unlock the enigma of Elgar

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

SOME 750 letters by Edward Elgar, in which the composer discusses masterpieces such as *The Dream of Gerontius* and the thrill of being praised by Richard Strauss, are to be sold at auction.

The correspondence, which includes 200 unpublished letters, spans his working life. It was sent to his publishers, Novello, in whose archives it has been stored, and is being sold by an anonymous collector.

It is the most important collection of Elgar's letters to be offered at auction, and will be sold by Sotheby's on May 15. Stephen Roe, head of Sotheby's book department, said: "It is an astonishing survival. Elgar was a really great letter-writer. He wrote from the heart, so honest."

Dr Simon Maguire, music manuscript specialist at Sotheby's, said: "This represents the ultimate Elgar collection, covering the conception, composition, preparation, publication, distribution, performance and reception of all his major works. It is immensely characterful."

The correspondence is not easy to read because Elgar, who lived from 1857 to 1934, often used abbreviations. But his prose is often jokey, and there are drawings, including caricatures of himself.

The earliest letters date from the 1890s, when he

tentatively asked Novello if he "might submit" an overture "for your inspection with a view to publishing it".

In a letter of May 23, 1902, Elgar describes the acclaim he received after the German premiere of *Gerontius*, some months after a disastrous performance in Birmingham, partly marred by an under-rehearsed orchestra struggling with a difficult work. "I understand the thing was a triumph. But I feel rather dazed at the success ... Richard Strauss, who never specifies if he can help it, made a really noble oration over *Gerontius* ... and it was worth some years of anguish — now I trust over — to hear him call me Meister," Mr Roe explained: "It had taken Elgar ages to be recognised in England as someone who was of interest."

On August 24, 1910, the composer penned a note asking whether the Austrian-born maestro Fritz Kreisler would be interested in performing his violin concerto in America. "It will never do to have it hacked about by the sort of creatures who play in the States," he joked.

The following spring, frustrated that his composing was not going well, he threatened to terminate his contract with Novello and give up music. "I am now well on in years and have to consider a move — under the depressing state of my music I have to reconsider this entirely and shall probably go abroad or to a cottage in the country and leave the musical world entirely." But Elgar had a change of heart and remained with Novello for 15 years until a dispute over the rights for the American publication of *Gerontius*.

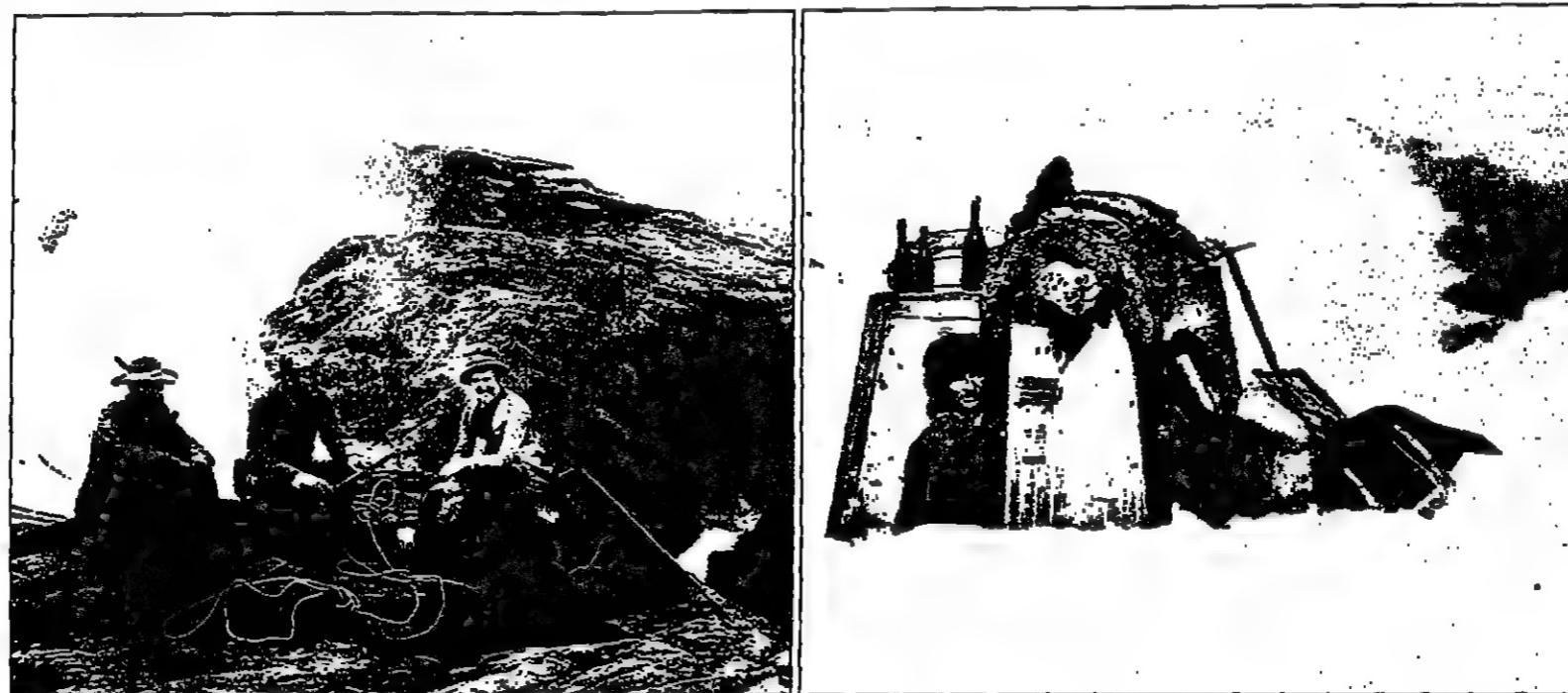
Hugh Cobbe, music librarian at the British Library, said: "We are watching the sale closely. But funds here are terribly restricted. If I could raise the money, I'd go for them like a shot."



Elgar liked to joke and draw caricatures



The high life: William Davidson's Climbing Party, from about 1882. Davidson is third from the right. Below are Unter-Theodule Glacier and Climbers, left, photographed by William Donkin in 1879, and Summit of Mont Blanc, by Edward Whymper, from about 1894



Victorians scaled the heights of fashion

BY DALYA ALBERGE  
ARTS CORRESPONDENT

PHOTOGRAPHS of Victorian mountaineers almost 150 years ago, in cumbersome dresses or tweed suits and deerstalkers, have been rediscovered in an archive in the East End of London.

The original prints and glass-plate negatives dating from 1850 give a unique record of the intrepid Victorians. The British, however ill-equipped for the elements, were the first to popularise climbing in the Alps. The photographs show them with ice-axes, walking-sticks and hob-nailed boots.

The photographs are to be published by Atlas Limited Editions, specialists in historical photography. Half the 34 images have never been published before; most of the others were last published as long ago as the 1930s.

Taking the photographs was no easy feat. The equipment weighed up to 45lb and the glass plates were about 1ft 6in by 2ft. To take the equivalent of a modern roll of film, the photographs could need 25 guides and porters.

The glass-plate negatives were developed on the spot. There were many accidents, including the one in which four of Edward Whymper's colleagues fell to their deaths while roped together on the Matterhorn.

The photographers included the Englishman William Donkin, known as the father of Alpine photography, and the French Bisson brothers, who took the first pictures of Mont Blanc. Chamonix and Zermatt are barely recognisable from the ski resorts they have become today.

The photographs were unearthed from an archive owned by the Alpine Club, founded in 1857 for "the promotion of good fellowship among mountaineers, of mountain climbing and exploration throughout the world, and of better knowledge of the mountains through literature, science and art". Chris Bonington will open an exhibition at the club in Charlotte Road, Shoreditch, running from Thursday until May 17.

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# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

## Lloyd's ready to improve offer to names

By SARAH BAGNALL

LLOYD'S of London is confident of lifting its settlement offer above £3 billion, enabling it to reduce the burden of losses that have fallen on "honourable" names who have paid their debts to the society.

Negotiations with potential contributors to the settlement package, which currently stands at £2.8 billion, are still under way but sources close to the insurance market believe that the sum will be increased by at least £300 million.

A large number of names are angry that they have consistently paid their losses to the market but are worse off under the settlement offer than those names who avoided paying their cash calls.

Names who joined action groups in order to litigate will still be deemed "honourable" if they have paid their losses. The total number of names that fall into this category is not known but it is believed to run into several thousand.

The anticipated reduction in many names' bills is the result of the combined effect of the extra funds together with the prospect of a reduction in the amount of money names will have to pay to Equitas, a new reinsurance company that is being set up to take over names' liabilities relating to risks insured before 1993.

Last month, Lloyd's sent out indicative statements to its 34,000 names, providing them with estimates of how much they will have to pay to settle finally all their debts with the society.

Lloyd's has lost more than £2 billion in the past five years and the settlement package is an attempt to end a mass of legal actions taken by names.

The indicative statements were based on the assumption that the Department of Trade and Industry would require names to inject £1.9 billion of extra funds into Equitas. This sum is now expected to be reduced to nearer £1.5 billion.

Having taken account of names' reactions to the indicative statements, Lloyd's has identified several groupings to whom it wishes to make a better offer. They include names who cannot meet their final bills to the market.



New leaf: Dieter Bock is intent on divesting Lonrho's mining interests and concentrating on other activities

## Germans intensify bid battle for C&W

By ERIC REGULY

BRITISH TELECOM is under pressure to strike a merger agreement with Cable and Wireless after the disclosure that Deutsche Telekom, Europe's biggest phone company, is considering bidding for C&W.

The disclosure, made in Frankfurt by Joachim Kroske, Deutsche Telekom's finance director, is the first official indication that BT's plan to merge with C&W may be challenged.

Other large phone companies and consortia are thought to be considering a bid for some or all of C&W, whose interests range from 80 per cent of Mercury Communications to 57 per cent of Hong Kong Telecom.

One financial adviser said: "These companies would be negligent if they didn't look at Cable and Wireless. Every serious phone company has to have a presence in the Asia-Pacific market and in the UK, the telecoms hub of Europe."

He added that Britain was a strategic priority for Deutsche

Telekom, which is to be privatised in November.

The English market is a dominant market in Europe through which a lot of telecoms traffic streams are routed.

We are of the opinion that we want to be present in this region, alone or with partners."

Shares in C&W closed up 9p

at 335p on the news that Deutsche Telekom was a potential bidder after touching a high of 546p. BT's shares gained 1½p to 37½p.

Before Mr Kroske's comments, the speculation was that Deutsche Telekom was interested only in Mercury Communications, which BT would have to sell if it merged with C&W to avoid a monopoly inquiry. Deutsche Telekom is also pondering a bid for Videotron, the cable company put up for auction by its Canadian parent. Videotron, with cable-telephony rights in the City and Westminster, would provide the German

company with an instant base on which to build a British telecoms service.

Analysts and financial advisers said a bid by Deutsche Telekom is possible but unlikely partly because the company is saddled with debts of almost DM100 billion. C&W has a market capitalisation of about £12 billion and the takeover premium could add billions to the price tag.

More importantly, it is highly unlikely that Deutsche Telekom would be able to merge with C&W through a reverse takeover. In such a deal, C&W would issue new shares to take over the much larger BT instead of the other way around. BT proposed the reverse takeover to avoid the £6 billion-plus expense of having to buy out the minority shareholders of Hong Kong Telecom.

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Tempus, page 28

## Bid approval talk boosts power shares

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

ELECTRICITY shares powered ahead yesterday, driven by reports that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission is to clear PowerGen's £1.9 billion bid for Midland Electric and National Power's £2.8 billion bid for Southern Electric and by expectations of further takeover bids in the sector.

The Department of Trade and Industry confirmed that it had received the commission's report late last month.

It would not say when Ian Lang, the President of the Board of Trade, would announce his decision on the bids, but expectations were growing that it would be soon.

The less than stringent conditions reportedly attached to the go-ahead for

the bids boosted share prices. The next important factor will be the prices at which the two generators relaunch their bids.

PowerGen shares closed at 562½p, up 13½p. National Power at 492p, up 14p. Midland Electric at 405, up 7p, and Southern Electric at 893p up 21p. Other power firms' shares also rose.

Piers Coombes, analyst with Barclays de Zoete Wedd, said:

"We expect this will be the catalyst for another round of bids for the remaining regional companies - London, Yorkshire, East Midlands and Northern." American power firms are expected to be first in line as bidders.

Melvyn Markus, page 26  
Tempus, page 28

## Second refinancing in a year for NP

By SARAH BAGNALL

NEWSPAPER PUBLISHING (NP), the publisher of the *Independent* and the *Independent on Sunday*, yesterday announced its second refinancing in less than a year involving an equity for debt swap and the raising of £9 million of fresh funds.

The funds are being injected by Mirror Group Newspapers (MGN) and Independent Newspapers (IP), the Dublin publishing group controlled by Tony O'Reilly.

In total, the companies, which are Newspaper Publishing's two largest shareholders, are injecting £23 million of equity into the loss-making publishing group. Of this, £14 million relates to the conversion into equity of loans made by Mirror Group and Independent Newspapers.

The transaction follows a £20 million refinancing last summer. Mirror Group's shares closed 1p down yesterday at 229p.

## Anglo American tightens grip on Lonrho

By JON ASHWORTH

ANGLO American, the South African mining group, has tightened its grip on Lonrho, buying a way into a £1.2 billion pan-African mining portfolio that includes Ashanti Goldfields.

Anglo American has taken an option over 18.4 per cent of Lonrho shares, lifting effective control to 28.5 per cent. The move gives it first pick at a portfolio spanning gold, coal and platinum and blocks moves by rivals such as American Barrick, Gencor and RTZ-CRA.

Dieter Bock, Lonrho's chief executive, is intent on divesting the group's mining interests and concentrating on other activities.

The opening shots were fired last month, when Anglo paid £91 million for the 5.9 per cent stake in Lonrho formerly held by Tiny Rowland. It has since lifted its stake to 7.5 per cent. The group controls a further 2.6 per cent through Southern Life, an associate company, and has now clinched the right to buy Mr Bock's 18.4 per cent stake.

The option is expected to be exercised simultaneously with the Lonrho demerger, providing cash for Mr Bock and giving Anglo American an instant 23.5 per cent stake in a lucrative pan-African portfolio. Lonrho's interests embrace coal and platinum, and include a 37 per cent stake in Ashanti, the Ghanaian gold producer. Anglo American has been looking to expand its mining interests beyond the Zambezi.

Lonrho shares were steady at 207.5p.

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New York 5206.02 (+20.85)\*

Dow Jones 636.46 (+4.11)\*

S&P Composite 5.84% (+5.9%)

Federal Funds 5.75% (+5.75%)

Long Bond 881.47\* (881.39)

Yield 6.84% (+6.84%)

London 1.5125 (1.5114)

1.5125 (1.5118)

227.750 (227.15)

SPR 7.7180 (7.7180)

SPF 1.8545 (1.8468)

SPF 164.25 (164.10)

Yen 83.6 (83.6)

£ Index 1.5035\* (1.5029)

DM 5.1079\* (5.1055)

FF 2.2259\* (2.2216)

SPF 168.65 (168.57)

Yen 98.8 (98.7)

Tokyo close Yen 100.05

London close 1.5010\* (1.5005)

Brent 52.40 (£20.95)

London close 5304.45 (\$386.25)

\* denotes midday trading price

## Bid approval talk boosts power shares

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# Confirmed: MMC's green light for Genco bids

It was several weeks ago on Wednesday March 6 to be precise, that *The Times* exclusively predicted that the Monopolies and Mergers Commission was poised to give a qualified go-ahead for PowerGen's £1.9 billion takeover bid for Midlands Electricity and National Power's £2.8 billion bid for Southern. Silence reigned but, within a fortnight, the MMC requested a two-week extension of its deadline to April 4. This request, duly granted by Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, was interpreted in the City as an indication that the MMC required more time to draft stringent conditions to the proposed amalgams. In the event, the MMC's report was forwarded to the DTI on March 29.

More silence until last Thursday when speculation that the MMC will give a green light for the Gencos takeover ambitions raised Midlands' quote 10p to 38p.

It is customary for the President of the Board of Trade to divulge the findings of an MMC inquiry but yesterday, courtesy of *The Econo-*

*mist*, heralded a break with tradition. *The Economist* let it be known that it had "obtained" a copy of the MMC's report and confirmed that the five-strong panel, spearheaded by Graeme Odgers, the MMC's chairman, recommends the takeovers by a majority of four to one.

According to *The Economist*, the conditions attached to the go-ahead are:

- The disposal by Midlands and Southern of their respective generating capacity within 18 months.
- The requirement of undertakings from the Gencos to ring fence price-sensitive information regarding contracts signed by the RECs with other generators.

□ Licences of the merged companies to be amended to give Offer, the industry regulator, additional powers to monitor and enforce operating agreements.

The dissenting voice would appear to be that of Patricia Hodgson, the BBC's director of policy and planning. The theme of Ms Hodgson's minority report is reputed to be that the mergers will limit

competition, increase prices and discourage new entrants into the market. Other members of the panel, including Stanley Metcalfe, Professor of Economics at Manchester University, David Jenkins, general secretary of the Welsh TUC and Roger Davies, a director of Airtours, take the view that although the mergers "may be expected to operate against the public interest" in some respects, these are not "sufficiently serious to justify prohibition".

The majority view is that if PowerGen and National Power dispose of six gigawatts of generating plant capacity — as demanded by Stephen Littlechild, Director-General of Offer — and new firms enter the industrial market as expected, there will be "a broadly satisfactory competitive environment from 1997".

As *The Times* emphasised last month, the MMC's recommendations represent yet another snub for Professor Littlechild, who is passionately opposed to vertical integration between the Gencos and the



MELVYN  
MARKUS

RECs. Littlechild has consistently argued that the proposed mergers would increase the market share of PowerGen and National Power and would have a damaging effect on competition — a perspective echoed by Ms Hodgson. Despite Littlechild's views, the Government has already permitted vertical integration within the industry by way of last year's go-ahead for Scottish Power's £1.1 billion takeover bid for

Manweb. When Mr Lang referred to the PowerGen/National Power bids last November he declared: "In general, I do not believe that vertical integration is inherently objectionable, whether in the electricity industry or elsewhere. However, in these two cases, the structural change proposed could have an effect on the development of competition."

As shares in the electricity sector blazed, John Battle, Shadow Energy Minister, said the sort of things that Shadow Ministers say. In his words: "This is a very serious leak of a draft document that throws into question the integrity of the relationship between the Secretary of State and the Monopolies and Mergers Commission." He added: "The contents are so market price sensitive that energy companies' shares are changing hands before the Secretary of State makes a decision on the findings of the report."

No arguing with Mr Battle on this count. On my calculations, close on 55 million shares in the electricity sector changed hands yesterday as

the share took positions in anticipation of a further round of consolidation within the sector.

It is no secret that several US utility companies, including the likes of Texas Utilities and Pacific Gas and Electric, are currently waiting on Mr Lang's statement on the MMC's findings before deciding whether to launch further forays into the UK electricity sector. Six RECs were acquired in last year's multi-billion pound takeover spree and speculation has recently focused on Yorkshire Electricity, 15p higher yesterday at 89.8p, and London Electricity, 10p up at 80.9p.

Support mounted for the two RECs under the spotlight, namely Southern, 21p higher at a record 89.3p, and Midlands, 7p to the good at 40.5p. Subject to a clearance from Mr Lang, the two Gencos will inevitably return to the fray but potential rivals have made the most of the delay brought about by the referrals and the possibility of a counter bid for Midlands should not be ruled out.

Similarly, the belief is mounting

in the City that the UK's two principal generating companies may now prove bid proof. PowerGen, 13p up higher at 56.2p yesterday, is capitalised at some £4 billion, while National Power, 14p up at 49.2p, commands a market value of almost £5.5 billion. Several City analysts take the view that a transatlantic bid for one of the Gencos may yet materialise.

Not a good week for Littlechild. The National Audit Office has inquired into the City's reaction to the Professor's review of his distribution review and gives warning that fund managers may have been "turned off" the forthcoming Railtrack and British Energy privatisations.

Vertical separation of the Gencos and the RECs was Littlechild's gold standard for the electricity industry. The MMC cruelly points out that a merged Genco and REC "would be a more effective international competitor, partly through increased size and partly because it would possess a wider range of skills and experience".

## Abbot on dividend list

ABBOT Holdings, the reshaped oilfield services company, formerly known as Unigroup, reported pre-tax profits of £3.88 million (1994: £364,000) for the 15 months to December 31. The results include a 6.4-month contribution from KCA Drilling, its main subsidiary. Earnings were 3.2p a share (0.7p). There is a final dividend of 1.12p and a special dividend of 0.56p. There was no dividend in the previous year.

### Redland offer

Redland, the building materials group, has increased its hostile takeover bid for Ennemix, the aggregates company, by nearly £1 million to about £6.7 million and declared the offer final. Ennemix investors are offered 35p a share, 3p higher than Redland's original bid. The shares rose 3p to 36p.

### Fujitsu grows

Fujitsu, the Japanese electronics company, is creating 100 new jobs at its factory in West Belfast.

# Briton chosen to head Ford's rescue of ailing Mazda

FROM ROBERT WYMAN IN TOKYO

FORD has stepped in to rescue Mazda, the ailing Japanese car manufacturer, and installed a British businessman to oversee the major Japanese company since the Second World War.

Mr Wallace, 50, will succeed Yoshihiro Wada with the immediate task of restoring the company to profit after three successive years of losses. Mazda reported net losses in 1993 and 1994 and is not expected to show a profit when results for the most recent fiscal year are announced.

Ford is to spend £326 million to increase its shareholding in Mazda from 25 per cent to 33.4 per cent, and will have a greater say in the day-to-day management.

Some analysts believe Mazda's competitors have reason

to fear the enhanced partnership. If Mazda's technology is combined with Ford's design capacity this will improve Mazda's chances of seizing a bigger share of Japan's saturated domestic market, which will intensify competition.

The expanded tie-up will enable the two companies to co-ordinate product development, manufacturing and vehicle distribution, and to improve competitiveness through greater economies of scale.

For the struggling Japanese carmaker, Ford's resources will be of major importance in expanding its research and development programme. Meanwhile, Ford is seeking to expand its share of the Asian market and is particularly anxious to penetrate the Chinese market where it lags behind General Motors.

Some analysts believe Mazda's competitors have reason



Henry Wallace, who becomes Mazda's president in June

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## Pensioners swell public coffers

BY KAREN ZAGOR

NATIONAL SAVINGS contributed a record £5.25 billion to government funding in the financial year just ended.

The strong performance was attributed largely to a decision announced in the last Budget by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to reduce the age limit to 60 on Pensions Bonds and to lift the maximum holdings to £50,000.

They made a net contribution of £3.3 billion. Premium bonds brought in a net £1.5 billion in June 1994.

In March, National Savings had gross sales of £1.59 billion.

Pensioners Bonds remained popular in the month, with net contributions of £578 million, followed by Premium Bonds at £203 million and Fixed-Interest Savings Certificates at £143 million.

Investors with Income Bonds now qualify for Pensioners Bonds and are allowed to transfer their investment. March was the first month this was allowed and about £90 million came from such reinvestments. Pensioners Bonds pay a fixed, guaranteed annual return of 7 per cent over five years.

In March, National Savings had gross sales of £1.59 billion.

## UBS faces stormy time

BY PATRICIA TEAHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

FIREWORKS are expected at next week's meeting of stockholders of Union Bank of Switzerland, the country's biggest bank, after it rejected the offer of merger talks with CS Holding, a rival.

Peter Thorne, banking analyst at Paribas, said: "I do not think UBS can climb away as easily as all that."

John Leonard, banking analyst at Salomon Brothers, said the rejection meant "people will be casting an eye over CS Holding given its weak recent performance".

There was widespread speculation yesterday that CS Holding would not only raise

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

## A WORKING WEEK FOR: MARK MASSARELLA

**'Godfather' relishes family taste for catering**

**Jon Ashworth meets the MD of an Italian ice-cream dynasty with a belief in horses for courses**

**Monday** IT WAS a bad week for Mark Massarella. He had put German sausage on the menu in department

stores across the UK, just as the nation commemorated the anniversary of the first doodlebugs landing on London. An earlier German promotion was launched on the day the Bundesbank failed to support Britain in the exchange-rate mechanism. His timing left a lot to be desired.

Mark's father, Ronnie, made a similar gaffe in his role as manager of the British showjumping team. He declared on television that he would sooner pick men over women riders because they withstood the pressure better. What's more, you could have a drink with them and give them a "good bollocking". How to endear yourself to half the nation...

Horses and meals just about sum up the Massarellas, who began selling ice-cream to northerners, and proceeded to build one of the UK's biggest private catering groups. Buy an ice-cream in Hamleys, on Regent Street, and you will have the Massarellas to thank for it.

Most of the House of Fraser in-store cafés and restaurants fall under their control. Mark, 44, managing director of Massarella Catering Group, which employs 1,800 people, and made a pre-tax profit of £2.1 million on turnover of £35 million last year.

The foundations were laid in 1860 when Mark's grandfather, Giovanni, set out from Italy with his family bound for a new life in America. "Rumour has it that they were on their way to the States, stopped off in South Yorkshire to visit friends, and really fell in love with the place," says Mark, sounding every bit the Yorkshireman.

Giovanni set about building an ice-cream business using an old handcart. By the 1900s his 12 sons were hard at work selling the goods. "The coalmining industry was very prevalent around the Doncaster area," says Mark. "My

father's early years were spent waiting outside the pits at 11 or 12 o'clock at night for [the] shift to come out, where they'd buy ice-cream. The stories go that the horses really knew their own way home because my father or his brothers were often fast asleep in the bottom of the cart."

In the 1950s, the family sold what was possibly the most advanced ice-cream manufacturing plant in the UK, if not in Europe, to J Lyons, later Lyons Maid. Ronnie Massarella bought back part of the business in 1963, and made it a market leader in soft ice-cream retailing.

In 1968, Ronnie was given the task of taking his cousin's horse, Mr Softee, to the Olympic Games in Mexico City. He was asked to step in after the team manager fell ill and was duly made Chef d'Equipe, a position he holds to this day.

The British showjumping team included Lady Fraser, wife of Sir Hugh, who had taken charge at House of Fraser on the death of his father.

Massarella restaurants soon began appearing in House of Fraser stores in Blackpool and Newcastle upon Tyne. The company subsequently

won the contract to supply ice-cream to Selfridge's in London, and held it for 16 years.

Mark runs the company with his three brothers, and does not have a regular routine. One day might find him visiting a new House of Fraser site in Swindon. The next might find him travelling round the M25 for discussions with clients. "I don't have such a thing as an average week. Some days I'm out very early in the morning and out until nine and ten at night. Other days I'll wander into the office at nine o'clock like anybody else. I try to not work on a Sunday now."

Mark left school at 16, and joined an ice-cream retailing depot in Doncaster, working his way up to depot manager. He was involved from the outset when the family began to diversify, opening the family's first in-store restaurant at Atkinsons in Sheffield.

Traditional British favourites such as baked beans on toast might be on the



Mark Massarella, one of four brothers in the family firm with a good working relationship and who "see themselves very much as equals with our own strengths"

way out. "I think tastes in food have changed tremendously in the last seven or eight years. People are travelling more, and have developed a very cosmopolitan taste. We are selling a range of Italian breads where people previously wanted a wrapped sandwich. I think coffee proves it more than anything. Flavoured coffees and the cappuccinos are all back in vogue..."

Mark regularly travels abroad to catch up on the latest trends, and would like to see more theatre in his venues, with glass-fronted kitchens, and chefs whipping up stir-fries in full view of the diners. He thinks London has a lot to learn from New York. "There are so many good restaurants, even those in Saks Fifth Avenue and Barney's on Madison. They're superb and very entertaining, and they seem to have a lot more theatre about them."

American-style flair is creeping

into Massarella venues. "I was in a restaurant on Fifth Avenue where you could dip different types of bread into different oils, and buy both. We have jars filled with Italian mushrooms and olives and artichokes, and the customer actually sees us ladling them out onto salads. We've seen a demand for them. If people can take home what they eat, it's a good add-on."

The Massarella empire is run from Thurcroft Hall near Sheffield, home to Ronnie, 72, and his wife, Edna, and set in 200 acres. There is a riding school in the grounds, and board meetings are punctuated by neighing from 20 horses.

Mark lives in the Old Laundry with his wife and five sons and is hailed in the family's publicity material as the Godfather, the one who listens to the ideas and seeks out the clients. Jeremy is portrayed as "the Consigliere, the money

man who the others believe is not really Italian in origin, but from another nationality more renowned for keeping a tight hold on the purse strings". A third brother, Stephen, is "the Arthur Daly, the wheeler and dealer. None of the others really know what he does out of business hours."

Michael, the quiet one, serves as the inspiration

for many of the menus. "Our work he sees himself as a typical Italian peasant, growing veggies and pottering around his farm." Mark plays down the Godfather angle. "Obviously, I work very closely with my brothers and we have a very good family working relationship. We see ourselves very much as equals

with our own strengths." This said, Papa and the boys have a habit of turning up en masse at Dickins & Jones or the Army & Navy. "We try to make two visits a year as a board of directors and family together, to every restaurant. That's become a custom now." Mark visits up to 30 stores some weeks.

Nearly 1,000 food lines are distributed around the UK, and communication can be tricky at times. Mark recalls the store manager who dispatched an employee to a local supermarket to buy fresh supplies of chips. "She came back with a freshly wrapped bag of chips in newspaper from the local fish and chip shop. It just shows you how communication can go wrong."

Mark hopes to win more contracts running staff canteens — never, traditionally, the most gourmet of experiences. "We've only scratched

at the surface with our business in that sector. Most clients now, are wanting a lot more for their staff with perhaps less subsidy attached to it. I think people will pay a little bit more if they know they're getting some variety and something better."

Massarella is locked in a battle for market share with the giants of UK catering, Compass, Sutcliffe and Gardner Merchant, but insists no one in the family is ready to cash in their chips, however generous the offer. "We've had a few tempting discussions, but none of us is at the stage where we want to sell out."

About £2 million of profit was ploughed back into the business last year, after payment of directors' fees, which Mark insists are reasonable.

"There's certainly no fat cats on our board at the moment."

The aim is to lift pre-tax profits from £2.1 million to

£3.5 million by 2000, turnover rising from £35 million to £55 million. "That's very realistic, and we're already in negotiations with independent shopping centres. Staff catering is becoming more retail. We feel we are well placed."

Family-run companies are prone to feuds, as followers of C&J Clark and Littlewoods are well aware. Mark insists that all is well at Massarella. "I think I've been very fortunate with my brothers that we've worked very well together and we've kept the business as a whole. I think what tends to happen with a lot of family businesses is that you get to a certain size and get married, and split up the business. We've actually managed to maintain a growing business where we work very well together and trade off each other's strengths. What the next generation's going to be like, God only knows."

## HIDDEN ASSETS

## Telecoms giant enjoys art of water

Art on a big scale provides a relaxing feature at the headquarters of Cable and Wireless. Joanna Pitman reports



Cable and Wireless's six-storey atrium waterfall

If the tense negotiations between Cable & Wireless and British Telecom, aimed at forging a £32 billion merger, get bogged down in complexities, you can imagine that Brian Smith, chairman of Cable & Wireless, might seek calming inspiration from the six-storey waterfall that flows peacefully, from morning to night, in the atrium of his company's head office.

The waterfall, technically a water sculpture, is the work of William Pye, the artist who designed the monumental 70-yard water wall for Nicholas Grimshaw's British Pavilion at Expo '92 in Seville.

While the water wall was a highlight of the Expo, Pye later caught the public eye in Britain with his water sculpture at Gatwick Airport.

The work, *Slipstream and Jetstream*, is in the departure lounge of the North Terminal and consists of two large, asymmetrical cones covered by a thin lamina film of flowing water that is dragged into rhythmic wave patterns. Hundreds of people pass it every day as they descend a circular walking ramp that curls around it on the way to the departure gates.

C&W's investment in Pye was a shrewd and early one. In 1989, when plans for refurbishing C&W's 1956 building at 124 Theobalds Road, London, were being discussed, Gordon Owen, then managing director, suggested a water feature, and Pye was found. The piece he

produced for C&W, with his architect, David Franklin, is simply entrancing. It is called *Aventino*, after one of the hills of Rome that was home to Mercury.

It consists of a continuous "wall" of water flowing six storeys down platinated bronze panels that are sculpted to create a rippled effect. At the bottom, the water wall fans out to flow down a wide glass sheet and into a shallow pond in the foyer.

The sculpture is lit with powerful theatrical lights to pick out the different colours in the bronze backdrop and to highlight the shapes created by the moving flow.

Light shades of green and the cool Portland stone facades all around create a graceful, tranquil ambience in the humming headquarters of one of the world's biggest telecommunications groups. When you use the glass-fronted lifts, you pass behind the flow of water and can look down on a furious cascade. It is a sensation similar to walking behind the torrential flow of Niagara Falls.

Since the C&W work, Pye has been involved in many big engineering and construction projects, including those consultant to Teesside Development Corporation.

It is no surprise that his creativity has followed this direction. His father was Sir David Pye, a president of the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, who helped to found the engineering school at Cambridge.

After graduating from the Royal College of Art, Pye joined a West End gallery, where he had several successful exhibitions. However, the larger scales of industrial materials and processes soon began to interest him and a fascination with big outdoor works lured him away from

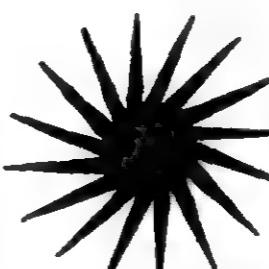
the intimacy of the gallery

world. He was worked with various degrees of success as a sculptor in a number of media for 25 years until the 1980s, when he became fascinated by the idea of working with water. "Water sculpture" at the time had barely progressed beyond the foun-

dations of the Fountains Society

and a water treatment plant have been custom-made and are designed to pump nearly nine gallons a second around the sculpture.

In many ways, Pye is an architect-sculptor, a rare combination, and he is now rising high in Britain's firmament of artistic stars. *Aventino* has been shortlisted, with six other pieces, for the 1995 Art and Work Award, and members of the Fountains Society make pilgrimages to Theobalds Road to view C&W's flowing art.



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## Response to final offer

**FREEPHONE 0800 771177**

BET is subject to a bid from Rentokil. Sir Christopher Harding, Chairman of BET, can be heard on the above freephone number with an updated message for shareholders.

The directors of BET Public Limited Company accept responsibility for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of their knowledge and belief of the directors of BET Public Limited Company who have taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case, the information contained herein is in accordance with the facts and does not omit anything likely to affect the import of such information.

## STOCK MARKETS



PHILIP DANGARDS

# Electricity shares soar on takeover hopes

A CHARGED electricity sector shone brighter after talk that the two English power generators would get a green light from the Monopolies and Mergers Commission in their attempts to take over electricity distributors.

National Power advanced 14p to 492p, on volume of 10.7 million shares, and PowerGen surged 13p to 562p, on 12.9 million shares traded. Shares of their respective bid targets rose. Southern Electric was up 2p at 893p, and Midlands, was 7p higher at 405p.

Shares in other regional electricity companies also surged. East Midlands rose 34p to 658p, and Yorkshire 15p to 898p, while London added 10p to 509p and Northern 21p to 679p.

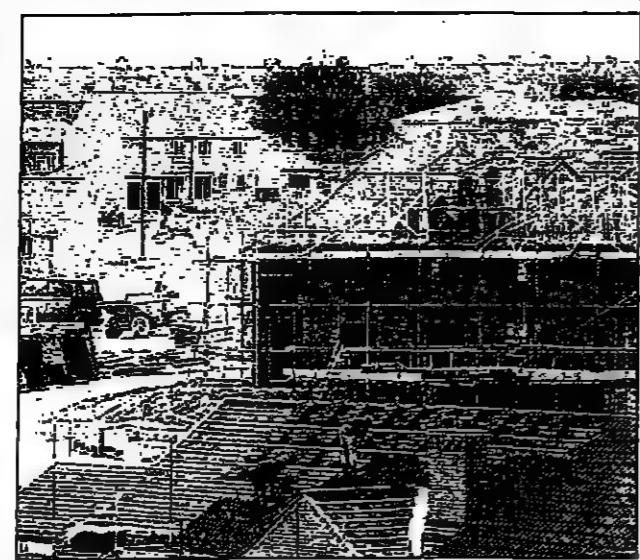
The optimism rubbed off on the water stocks. Anglian climbed 10p to 597p, Severn Trent 9p to 597p, South West 16p to 714p, Southern 8p to 748p, and United Utilities 1p to 604p.

Elsewhere in the market, traders appeared to take the Staffordshire South-East by-election defeat in their stride, in spite of the Government's Commons majority being reduced to just one.

Supportive US inflation data led to a positive start to trading on Wall Street and strength in Treasuries, which in turn boosted sentiment in London and provided a late rally after evidence of short-covering. The FT-SE 100 index ended near its best levels of the day, closing up 22.6 at 3,766.8. Volume reached 882 million shares, boosted by sizeable trading in a number of leading stocks.

Cable and Wireless, which saw heavy options activity on Thursday, advanced to 546p, before settling at 535p, up 9p, on volume of 9.77 million, as renewed bid speculation resurfaced after reports that Deutsche Telekom may make a counter offer to the one being discussed with BT. The Deutsche Telekom finance director disclosed at a dinner in Frankfurt that there is still a chance of a German bid. BT, whose advisers are in talks with those of C&W, added 1p to 3714p, on volume of 14.2 million.

Tesco, Britain's biggest supermarket group, which is due to report full-year figures on Tuesday, added 3p to 288p, on buoy volume of 14.8 million shares. UBS has pencilled in



House price rises boosted building-related stocks yesterday

final pre-tax profit of £680 million (£595 million). Credit Lyonnais Laing is recommending a switch out of J Sainsbury, unchanged at 375p, on volume of 3.3 million, and into Tesco. Elsewhere in the food retailing sector, Asda firm'd 1p to 1054p, on heavy volume of 30.2 million shares.

Building-related stocks continued to climb in the wake of oil price prompted fresh interest in oil

Pamire Gordon's engineering team has upgraded its forecast for British Aerospace. 15p up at 872p, by £20 million for 1996 and by £50 million for 1997 and 1998. Pamire also recommends buying BAe as well as Morgan Crucible, down 1p to 444p, and GKN, 4p lower at 979p.

This week's mortgage cuts and further evidence that house prices are rising. A Halifax survey pointed out that a sharp increase in UK house prices had pushed the number of households in negative equity below 1 million for the first time since 1992, raising hopes for a sustained housing market recovery.

A bear squeeze saw RMC stand out with a 47p increase to £10.69 ahead of full-year results next Thursday, while recent precious metal price rises led to continued demand for RTZ, up 20p to 998p, on results next Thursday, while

volume of 4.66 million shares. Optimism about a higher gold price also helped Ballymun Gold add 25p to 445p.

There were red faces at BET, the business services group which is trying to fend off a £2.1 billion hostile bid from Rentokil, the environmental and industrial services group, after the Takeover Panel criticised statements made by the company on Thursday about Rentokil's increased offer. BET edged up 4p to 208p on, volume of 7 million shares, while Rentokil firms'ed 1p to 351p.

Rolls-Royce added 5p to 227p, as 11.3 million shares changed hands, boosted by reports of buy advice from Merrill Lynch.

Bearings House added 12p to 201p. Barratt Developments 9p to 271p. George Wimpey 4p to 151p. Hetherton 14p to 297p. Wolseley 9p to 469p and Redland 14p to 403p.

Ennemex gained 3p to 36p after Redland raised its cash offer to 35p, valuing Ennemex at £6.7 million.

The strong crude price prompted fresh interest in oil

stocks, with Shell 13p higher at 894p, on volume of 7.5 million shares, boosted by recommendations from ABN Amro Hoare Govett and NatWest Securities. BP added 6p to 598p, as 7 million shares changed hands, and Lasmo gained 6p to 188p, on volume of 16.6 million shares, with BZW and NatWest said to be positive on the stock.

Recent precious metal price rises led to continued demand for RTZ, up 20p to 998p, on results next Thursday, while

Arjo Wiggins lost 82p to 183p on concerns that overcapacity in the paper and packaging industry will hit profitability, while David S Smith, its fellow packaging group, fell 3p to 285p.

**GILT-EDGED:** The market opened lower, but there was a strong recovery after the release of US data. The June series of the long gilt future spent the morning at £10428 1/2, before rallying to close at £10521 1/2, up 20 ticks, on volume of 63,000 contracts traded. Longer-dated issues fared best among conventional stocks, with gains stretching to £1 for ultra-longs, shorts added about £1% and index-linked gained £1.

**NEW YORK:** Shares rose on Wall Street, supported by a rally in the bond market, after being battered all week in highly volatile trading. At midday, the Dow Jones Industrial average was up 20.95 points at 5,508.02.

**RUBBER:** The FTSE 100 price index (FTSE 100) rose 10.95 points to 1,224.01 on Friday.

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## UNIT-LINK LOSS 30

Those who miss out in the Clerical Medical takeover

# Ombudsman responds to payout row

**Sara McConnell** says the outrage felt by dispossessed savers may lead to a law change

**B**rian Murphy, the Building Societies Ombudsman, is to press for an extension of his powers to allow him to investigate complaints from hundreds of thousands of savers and borrowers who have been excluded from bonus payouts from society mergers and conversions.

The move by the independent official, who intervenes in disputes between societies and their saving and borrowing members, comes in the week that the National & Provincial's 1.4 million members voted overwhelmingly for their society to be taken over by the Abbey National in return for payouts of up to £4,750. But the vote only went through after its board suffered hours of attacks by members who will lose out.

Such is the anger felt by those who did not qualify for payouts from the Woolwich that they have formed a protest group, headed by David Adams, a Woolwich saver for 26 years. Mr Adams, who believes the most effective action is for long-term members to join together, has invited all disgruntled savers and borrowers to meet at the Moat House in Oxford on May 11 where an action plan will be drawn up.

Meanwhile, angry members excluded from bonus payments from N&P and other societies are besieging the

ombudsman's office, demanding that he intervene to force societies to reverse their decision. The Times has received many similar letters. But the ombudsman cannot investigate such complaints as they are outside his remit.

Many savers and borrowers

**THE RULES**

- You can only qualify for a cash payout if you have been a qualifying member for at least two years. This means either that you have had £100 or more in a share account at the date set by the building society or that you owe £100 or more on a mortgage.
- If you have been a qualifying member for less than two years you can only receive a bonus as shares.

■ Only the first named person on the account counts as a member. After an outcry, a Private Member's Bill brought by Douglas French, MP, changed the rules to allow widows and widowers to receive payouts if the first named holder died before a payout.

■ Deposit accounts have no membership rights.

have already missed out on payouts after the takeover of the Cheltenham & Gloucester by Lloyds. Many more will be excluded from bonanzas after the conversions of the Halifax and the Woolwich to public companies and the takeover of National & Provincial by the Abbey National. The Alliance & Leicester has yet to announce details of bonuses for members who agree to it becoming a bank.

Building societies blame poorly drafted legislation governing takeovers and conversions for many exclusions. But societies themselves have come under attack for setting arbitrary cut-off dates, disqualifying loyal members. To thwart opportunists who were opening accounts in the first weeks of January, the Woolwich fixed on December 31, 1995. But this worked against many long-term investors who had taken their balance below the £100 limit on that date.

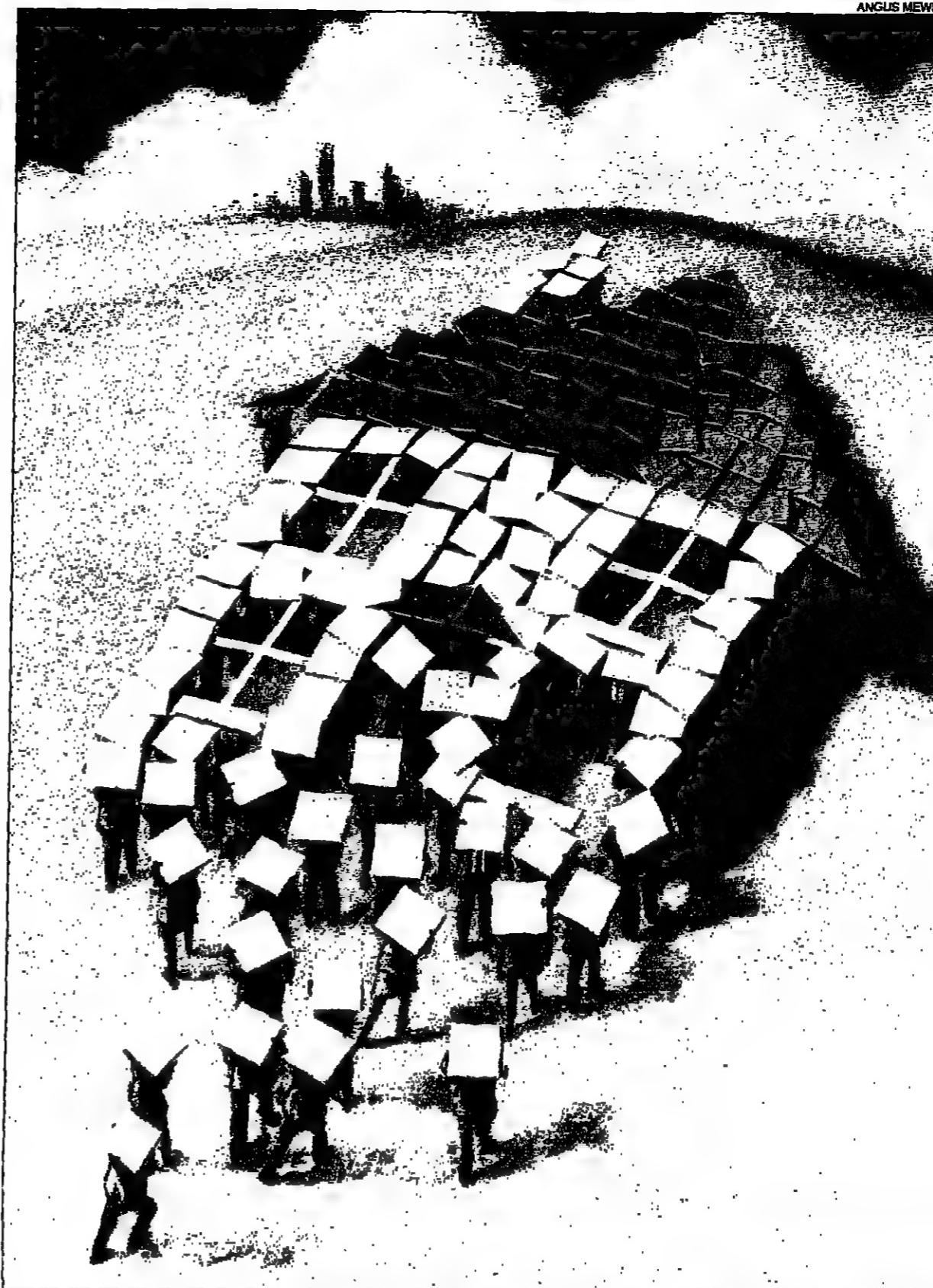
As the takeover speculation grows again this week, Mr Murphy is concerned that excluded members have no redress, apart from the courts. The Building Societies Commission will hear formal representations from members when it is deciding whether or not to approve takeovers or conversions but will only investigate whether correct procedures have been followed.

N&P answers, page 30

# WEEKEND MONEY

## BUMPY RIDE 35

Ups and downs of owning an escalator bond



## Full steam ahead from Monday

The pathfinder prospectus for the £1.8 billion Railtrack privatisation will be launched on Monday, amid a flurry of train similes, such as "gathering a head of steam" and "about to leave the station," Anne Ashworth writes.

The draft document will not contain the price for shares in the company, which owns the rail network's track, terminals and tunnels. But these blanks will be filled in on May 1 when the final version of the prospectus is expected.

Meanwhile, the stock market already predicts that Railtrack's shares, in their partly-paid discounted form, will offer a yield of about 15-20 per cent. The yield on the fully-paid shares should be about 6 per cent, comparable to the return on the National Grid.

The price will reflect the political uncertainties surrounding Railtrack. Labour has already announced that, if it takes power, it will toughen the regulatory regime governing the business. However, it will not seek to renationalise the business. An outline of the party's proposals will appear in the prospectus. It will also contain details of the departure of Roger Salmon, the rail franchise director, the official responsible for selling off British Rail's passenger services. The surprise news late this week of his decision to quit has cast something of a shadow over the flotation.

Payment for Railtrack shares will be in two instalments, each in a different tax year. Individual investors will get a discount on their first instalment. Under the terms of the incentive package, announced on Thursday, they will also be able to receive a 15p discount on the second instalment on the first 800 shares allocated. This sweetener is worth a maximum of £120. Investors can also opt for one free bonus share for every 15 held continuously until May 31 1999. These incentives apply only through share shops.

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

## Mutual — well, for the moment

**A**s the Bristol & West Building Society prepares to turn its back on nearly 150 years of mutual tradition by passing into the control of the Bank of Ireland, speculation surrounding the sector is running at a high pitch.

After the news that both the Bristol & West and the Northern Rock, as predicted by *The Times*, are abandoning mutuality, the focus is increasingly turning to the medium-sized societies, such as Birmingham Midshires, West Bromwich, Chelsea, National Counties, Norwich & Peterborough and Portman. The societies are seen as possible hostile bid targets, or as candidates for friendly mergers.

All have this week protested that they intend to remain independent. But such words now sound hollow since they

were also spoken by every society that has announced its intention to turn itself into a bank, or become a bank subsidiary. This quote from the Birmingham Midshires is typical: "We are committed to our mutual values, we have had no approaches and there have been no talks."

The Portman, however, is being more realistic. The society is ranked 12th but, in the new order, after the various conversions and takeovers, it will be nearer sixth place and interested in merging with a medium-sized building society in the South of England.

"We are interested in looking at mergers, where they make geographical sense and as long as the Portman was the dominant partner," said John Gully, the society's head of corporate affairs. "The problem is that as soon as an

interest in a merger is announced, you are considered 'in play' and that's when a bank could make a hostile bid." Other societies are running scared from the torrent of funds now flowing through their doors and some are rejecting new customers. The National Counties, 22nd in the league, and the Lambeth, ranked at number 30, this week announced that they are no longer opening share accounts.

The Nationwide, the second largest society, this week moved its commitment to mutuality by cutting its mortgage rate to 6.74 per cent, 0.51 per cent below the Halifax. But this action will not ensure that it escapes the speculation, as it is seen as a possible aggressor, eager to acquire other societies. Although today the phrase "mutual and proud

of it" is never far from the lips of any Nationwide executive, the society has, in the recent past, contemplated a stock market flotation.

These plans were scotched when it lost out to Abbey National in the struggle for control of the National & Provincial. The Nationwide has also been seen as a possible target for the Midland Bank which would be eager to enlarge its mortgage operations.

This week the society stated its position thus: "We are not actively looking for merger opportunities but if another society shared our values, we would be happy to talk to them. However, we would not want to get into a bidding auction with a pic."

SARAH JONES AND ANNE ASHWORTH

## Murphy in Downing Street

**M**errill Lynch's latest City survey found that 93 per cent of the fund managers polled expected Labour to form the next government. Individuals are not so nearly unanimous. Loyal Tories hate to think their party will lose. But after the voters' verdict at Tamworth, the sensible strategy is to assume Tony Blair will be at Number 10 by May next year and Gordon Brown next door.

This need not make investors pore over Labour policy papers in search of winners and losers. There will be plenty of that, but it will be a frustrating task. To start with, Labour has made a virtue of avoiding controversy, or the commitments that traditionally boosted public sector construction and investment. Intentions are also a poor guide to what actually happens. In 1979-80, the last thing the new Conservative government wanted was to sweep away swathes of manufacturing industry. Yet that was the result of its actions.

In one respect, events are likely to repeat what happened 17 years ago, the last time the political tide reversed. Now, as then, the incumbent government is likely to take short-term measures to boost its chances. In 1979, Labour's Clegg commission on public sector pay delivered an unwelcome boost to public spending and inflation for the incoming Conservatives.

The present Cabinet seems addicted to unpopular measures, but the Chancellor will certainly cut direct taxes and most likely avoid any interest rate rise in the next 12 months, almost regardless of circumstance. A new Labour govern-



GRAHAM SEARJEANT

ment, like the Tories in 1979, would be too wrapped up in its own agenda for ministers to have their eye fully on the economic ball. In 1979, for instance, a long-planned switch from direct to indirect taxation worsened a legacy of rising nominal inflation, worsening the recession to come.

In 1997, good intentions may again be swamped by an unwelcome legacy. In this case, the heirsloom is likely to include an excessive Budget deficit and could stretch to an overly lax monetary stance. Correcting these would probably not be top priority in the early months, perhaps until the strain hits sterling. Labour will also have a steep learning curve and is likely to make early mistakes it will have to correct later.

Under a Blair government, the proposed law that Labour spends more, taxes more and gets into fiscal trouble should be repealed. Murphy's law will still be in force. It is even possible that Labour will repeat a mistake of 1965,

when tax measures designed to curb dividends, and boost retained profits for investment, cut retentions instead. Labour has woosed the City. But some top departmental shadow ministers have little idea how markets work; for instance that higher investment and profit go together in regulated industries.

A cautious investment stance may therefore be wise. Many small investors have a lot of their equity funds in high-yield unit trusts. Given Labour's promised levy and possible anti-dividend measures, sentiment is likely to desert such domestic stocks in favour of multinationals as the election approaches if you want to lighten holdings, do it early. The same applies to perceived losers from a minimum wage, such as pub and hotel groups, whatever the reality.

**S**tategists at brokers BZW are already looking ahead to the phase of the economic cycle when cash is king and it pays to invest in companies with strong cash flow rather than cyclical recovery or growth stocks. The private sector has moved into financial deficit after four years of repaying debt. As BZW admits, it is premature to invest defensively. You still want growth as well as strong internal finances. On the surface, that applies even more if politics unduly prolong short-term growth policies. But retribution would then be worse.

Strong cash generators in growth industries are also a good bet if Labour acts against dividends and takeovers. But investors should be more wary of political accident than Labour policies.

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# Unit-linked clients miss takeover bonus

**Marianne Curphey** on winners and losers among Clerical Medical clients as the Halifax snaps up the life insurer

Within six weeks, Clerical Medical policyholders will discover how much they will gain from the £800 million takeover of their life insurer by the Halifax Building Society.

However, one category of policyholders will be excluded from the special bonus payout. They are the tens of thousands of savers with unit-linked policies who cannot even voice displeasure by voting against the deal, because they are not entitled to vote. They are barred by the arcane rules of mutual organisations such as Clerical Medical, which say that only with-profits policyholders have a stake in the business and the right to vote.

They will not receive payouts because they are deemed not to have taken a share of the risk — Clerical Medical has grown and they have not provided capital for its expansion.

Instead, their contributions have been pooled to buy units that are kept separate from the

main fund. Although they have been charged expenses to cover the cost of running the fund, their contributions, or so the argument runs, have not helped to bring in new business.

Roman Czidyn, an insurance analyst with Merrill Lynch, agrees. Unit-linked policyholders might, in theory, have a case for challenging their exclusion from the special bonuses if they were sold the product by a member of a direct sales force who could have advised them to opt for a with-profits policy, he says.

Mike Wadsworth, an actuary with Watson Wyatt, the accountancy firm, said that if unit-linked policyholders were to claim that they are entitled to receive a share of the profits of the organisation, a buyer might decide to reward them when the deal goes through as a sweetener.

Industry figures show that with-profits and unit-linked policies are sold in roughly equal numbers in the UK, although when financial markets are rising, unit-linked policies are popular because they take advantage of investment returns.

General Accident, which bought the life company Prov-

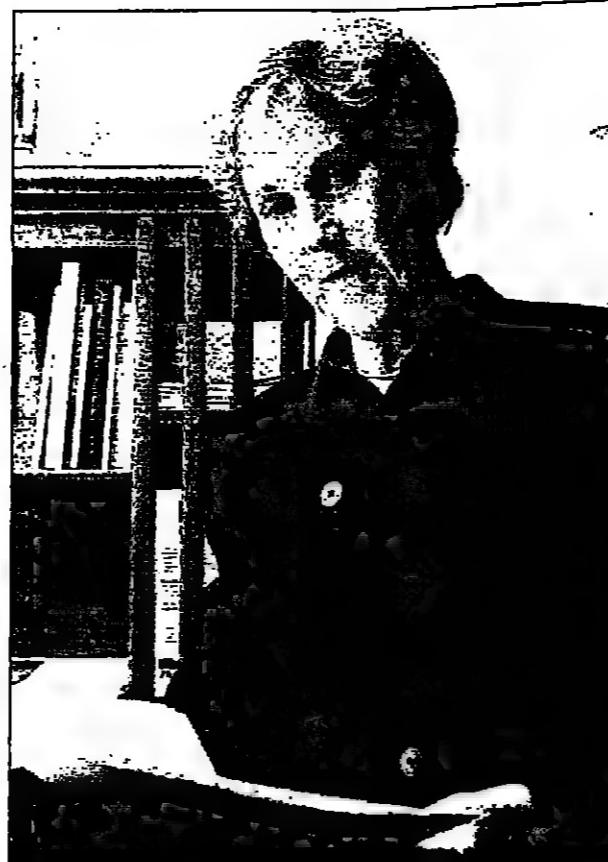
ident Mutual last year, will pay bonuses of about £100 to its 250,000 with-profits policyholders, but nothing to its 50,000 unit-linked members.

Mike Urmston, chief general manager and chief actuary of General Accident, says that only with-profits policyholders are being rewarded because, historically, they have provided the capital to make the business grow.

"Unit-linked policyholders only benefit from a takeover if the management charges on their funds are reduced or frozen," he said. "We have guaranteed that expenses for Provident Mutual savers will not rise for five years. With-profits premiums go into the reserves, which the company can use to finance new business."

Clerical Medical has guaranteed that expenses, which are reviewed annually, will rise in line with the Retail Price Index and not above it for at least five years. At present, the average effect of charges on a fund's performance is equivalent to an annual 1 per cent yield cut.

For most with-profits policyholders, Clerical Medical will pay an enhanced terminal bonus (an extra payment distributed at the end of the policy's



Katie Knapton considers policy distinctions unfair

life) plus a one-off bonus (equivalent to the special annual bonus) every December for the next three years. The policy must have been in force at midnight on March 22 and still be running at midnight on December 31, 1996. Mr Czidyn estimates this will be worth an average £2,172 to someone who has held a £30,000 policy for 15 years.

Savers whose with-profits

policies mature between the two qualifying dates will be given the equivalent of the special reversionary (annual) bonus only. A small number of policyholders who took out their unit-linked policies before 1984 — the year in which the group changed the rules on voting rights — will also benefit from a payout. All other unit-linked policyholders will be excluded.

**Caroline Merrell** on the Inland Revenue decision to change the treatment of educational trusts

## Revenue gives parents a caning

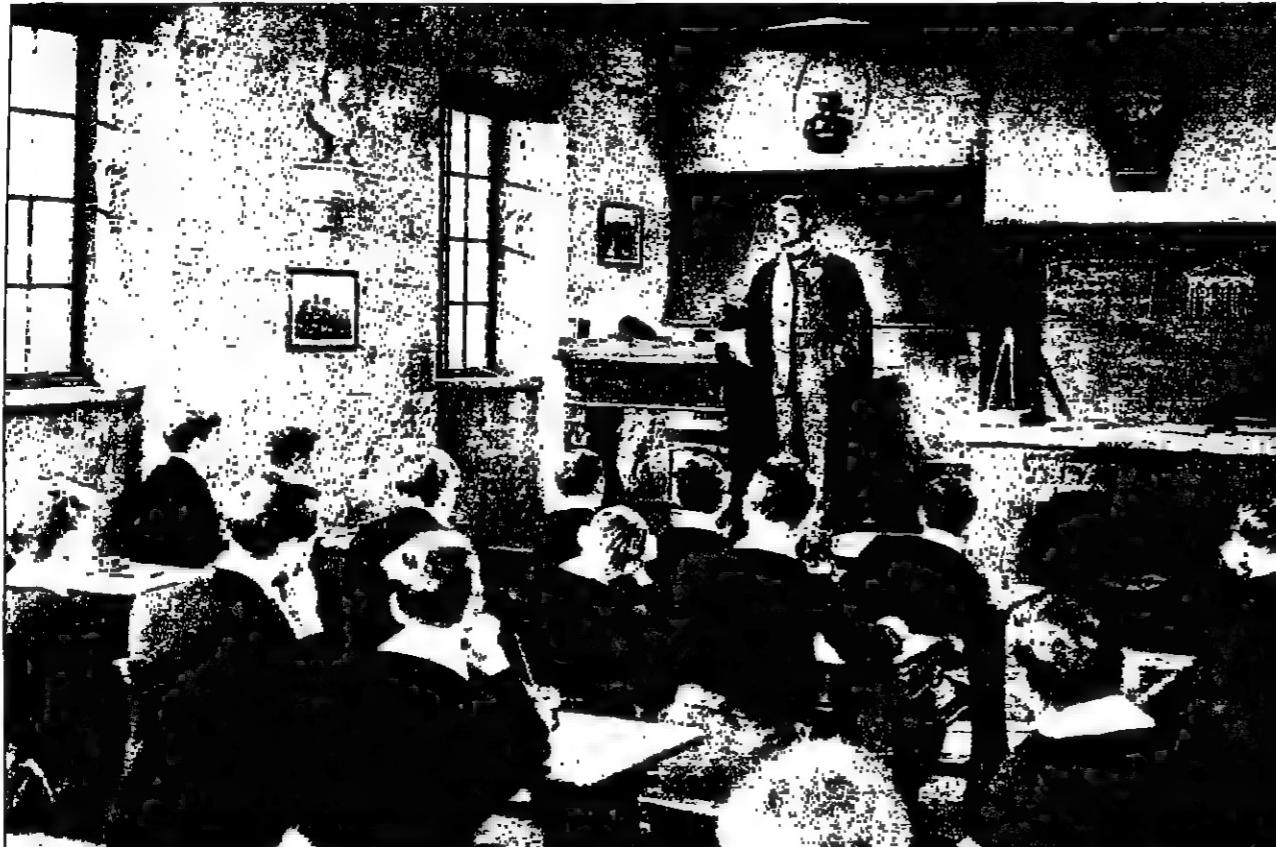
Thousands of parents with children in private education will have to pay higher fees after a shock decision by the Inland Revenue to change the taxation treatment of educational trusts.

Many trusts are set up as charities which allows them to pay out school fees in a tax-efficient manner. Parents or grandparents can pay a lump sum in a trust run by an insurance company or financial adviser. The trust will then buy annuities — investments which pay a regular income. At present, the income is tax-free. If the Inland Revenue proposals go through unopposed, this income will become taxable.

The Revenue aims to bring in the changes from April next year. Its decision follows a two year investigation by the Charity Commission into the charitable status of educational trusts. The commission felt that many of the trusts were set up merely to provide cheaper school fees rather than as charities. Many of the trusts made donations towards particular school facilities to maintain their charitable status.

Hugh Rogers, Charity Commission spokesman, said: "We are of the opinion that the trusts are not essentially charities."

Mr Rogers said: "Charities are not meant to benefit particular individuals. The charities can appeal against the decision in the High Court if they want to. We think that these organisations no longer qualify for this status. So we will simply remove them from our register. Our ruling comes at



Good old days: few worried about how to pay school fees when Robert Donat starred in the original *Good-Bye Mr Chips*

the end of a long investigation."

Anne Feek, SFIA managing director, said she intended to appeal against both the Revenue and the Charity Commission's decision. She added that although the ruling does come into force next year, it amounts to retrospective legislation.

She said: "We are vigorously defending the case for existing clients. The plan has

been in operation since 1959. Many people will have invested on the basis that they will get the tax break." She estimated that the ruling could affect about 10,000 of her clients alone.

School fees specialists are unsure exactly what the effect of the ruling will be on the price of private education. But some estimate that it could mean increases of about 8 per

cent. The change could be particularly hard on those who have saved for a long time to provide their children or grandchildren with school fees, because the amount invested will be greater.

Geoffrey Harrison Dees, chairman of the Sun Life Educational Trust (Slet), has written to clients warning them of the change. In his letter he said: "Since 1952, Slet

has been recognised as a charity by the Inland Revenue. For over 30 years Slet has been entitled to claim a refund of the tax deducted from its investment income in relation to school fees plans. This has allowed the trust to pay an enhanced level of school fees to each of our shareholders."

"However, the trust now faces the prospect of being without tax refunds in future in which case the trust will have to reduce all fee payments. This will not have any impact on fee payments made before April 1, 1997, but it will impact on payments made on or after that date."

He goes on to ask clients to write to their own Member of Parliament to try to have the ruling overturned.

Ms Feek said: "We do not think clients in educational trusts should take any drastic action. Despite the more disadvantageous tax position on the trusts, for those who only have five years to go before the child starts education, they can still be useful." She said other savings plans including Personal Equity Plans, and offshore bonds could be more appropriate.

The Independent Schools Information Service (Isis), which keeps statistics on the independent sector, estimated that about 5 per cent of the 500,000 children in private education relied on educational trusts.

An Isis spokeswoman said that the change would have an effect on the ability of parents to fund for the long term education of children.

chairman, Mr Samuelson elaborates: "Last October, a few days before the terms of the merger were announced, I transferred my share in a joint account with my wife... Consequently as I was the first named, it appears my wife has forfeited her entitlement to any variable distribution... To lose in excess of £2,500 is a loss we can ill afford. I would submit to you that the first named rule in the prospectus is also against the spirit of equal opportunity as it discriminates against women. In my own case, had my wife transferred her share in our account to me it would have had a nil effect as far as entitlement to any variable distribution".

Who gets what payout can seem complicated to members, but the deciding factor is how long you have been with the N&P.

Savers of less than two years' standing will receive £500 worth of free Abbey National shares. To qualify,

they have to have had a share account with more than £100 invested on April 28, 1995 and December 31, 1995. Borrowers will also get £500 of Abbey shares if they had mortgages of more than £100 on April 28, 1995, and continue to do so until the takeover.

Savers who have been with N&P for more than two years will get a larger £750 which they can choose to take either in Abbey shares or in cash.

On top of this they will get a payout of at least 7 per cent of the balance in their account, up to a maximum of £3,500 on a balance of £50,000. Two year savers will have to have had a share account open with more than £100 in it on April 28, 1995 and December 31, 1995 and keep the account open until the takeover.

The first named holder of a joint account will get the payout. If he or she dies before the takeover, the second named should get the payout.

**Dr R. I. Watson, Sussex**  
"I have been a customer of the N&P for some years, using it for depositing money against future tax liabilities. As luck would have it I went into my branch on December 27, 1995, and "withdrew" by cheque a sum which reduced my balance below the magic £100 level. However, since this was the holiday period the cheque did not arrive in my bank until January 3, 1996, and the money was not actually cleared until January 8, 1996. It is my contention therefore that I fulfilled N&P's requirement..."

**Nigel Samuelson, Powys**  
"My wife stands to lose a substantial bonus because I transferred our joint account into her sole name last October, a few days before the terms of the transfer were announced. I did so when my wife was seriously ill to try to equalise our estates. The effect is manifestly unjust as our savings with the society derived primarily from the surplus equity in our home when we moved." In a letter to Lord Shuttlesworth, N&P

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& P explains  
why some  
will lose out

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

NAT RIC

WEEKEND MONEY 31

## Cautionary tale of nest-eggs

Like an Aesop's fable, the troubled story of the Ostrich Farming Corporation, now the subject of an official investigation, is a cautionary tale. It would appear to hold lessons for investors, and also for the watchdogs responsible for investor protection.

The precepts for investors are simple, obvious even. But it seems that they are easily forgotten, even by the most cautious people. Perhaps they believe that the strict rules governing the promotion of investments apply to every moneymaking scheme, including those based on os-triches which were, as OFC boasted, "the cash crop of the Nineties."

To ensure that you and your cash are not parted for ever, always be suspicious of a company offering higher-



### COMMENT

ANNE ASHWORTH  
*Personal Finance  
Editor*

than-average returns, especially when the company involved is not an authorised investment business.

The Ostrich Farming Corporation promised returns of 50 per cent plus, a figure that the most talented fund manager can only dream of achieving. As it dealt in alternative investments, the company did not need a licence from one of investment regulators. This means that whatever fate in store for

OFC, the outcome of the investigation not being known, its hapless customers are not covered by any compensation scheme.

It could be argued that anyone putting the proceeds of a manured fessa into such an untried venture, as likely to prove to be a turkey as a nest egg, deserves to lose their money. But this would excuse the lamentable failure of the authorities to alert the public to its concerns about OFC.

They should now be assessing their role to ensure that there is no repetition of the delays seen in this sorry episode. More than a year ago, the Department of Trade and Industry knew that OFC's operations were causing considerable disquiet. But they stood idly by, allowing the company to trade merrily on, attracting more than a million a month.

As well as keeping investors in the dark, the DTI would not help The Times in its inquiries over OFC. Let us hope that when it concludes its investigation into OFC it will not be so dismaying. Or we will be able to conclude that, although ostriches may actually not bury their heads in the sand, is a habit among regulators.

possessed information about OFC that the average individual could never have gleaned. There is, for example, the identity of one of its salesmen, Paul Prew-Smith, a resident of sunny Marbella. His previous business, the Southport-based Fisher Prew-Smith, now failed, dealt in home-income plans. The official Investors Compensation Scheme has paid out more than £13 million to 1,000 of his elderly victims.

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## Timeshares use cheap loan lure

Unwary foreign time-share property buyers may find their deal looks less attractive when they return home. Some mortgage brokers are promising families that they can remortgage their homes to raise money to buy the timeshare and, at the same time cut their monthly outgoings. The lure of a lower mortgage can help to clinch the deal. Yet some timeshare buyers are finding that the rates offered abroad are lower than the rates they have to pay at home.

Within the past few weeks, the Office of Fair Trading has launched an investigation into one of the companies now operating in this field, the Mortgage Advice Centre, based in Leicester.

The OFT has taken the unusual and serious step of issuing a notice saying that it is "minded to revoke" the MAC's credit licence. If the Office of Fair Trading puts a "minded to revoke" notice on a credit broker, the company has to submit a defence before an adjudicator. Investigations can take several months.

The OFT moved to take action after dozens of complaints to trading standards officers. Most grievances

centred on the mortgage quotes used by the centre, which were faxed over to holiday resorts, while the holidaymakers were being sold timeshare apartments in the popular resorts in Majorca, Minorca and Tenerife. The experiences of Margaret and Michael Fisher from Swindon are typical of many of those dealing with the MAC.

The couple were in Minorca when they were subjected to several hours of hard sell by a timeshare salesman who said they could reduce their overall mortgage outgoings, and still buy a timeshare worth £9,000. The couple were attracted by the deal. They were paying about £320 a month for a £40,000 mortgage on their home, which is worth about £100,000. The Mortgage Advice Centre told the Fishers that they could reduce their costs to about £230 a month. Mrs Fisher, a teacher, said: "The company asked for a deposit of £1,200, which we did not have there and then, so we agreed they would take £200 off our Visa card, and take further instalments when there was enough credit available." The timeshare company took a further two instalments totalling more than £1,000.

TED BATH



Remortgaging victims: Margaret and Michael Fisher

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1304/96

# Investigators move on ostrich traders

**Karen Zagor takes a look at the controversy building over the Ostrich Farming Corporation**

The future does not look bright for investors with the Ostrich Farming Corporation (OFC). The company was ordered to cease trading by the High Court last week, and it is now the subject of a three-pronged investigation by the Department of Trade and Industry, the Advertising Standards Authority and the Serious Fraud Office.

The potential cost to investors could be enormous. The OFC ran an extremely effective marketing campaign in the later months of last year. It took in £5 million between October and the end of December, and the money kept rolling in through March. It is estimated that at least 3,000 people could be affected.

Many investors feel that they have been kept in the dark by the Department of Trade and Industry, which filed a winding-up petition ten days ago. Although the DTI's actions have been far from hasty, it has not stated its reasons for the petition. Now, with a court hearing pending on May 8, neither the DTI nor the company can comment.

It is possible that the company will be cleared by the courts and that it will be able to continue trading. But whether it will ever be able to return to business as usual is uncertain.

If the court case fails, it will be a great embarrassment for the DTI. If the case succeeds,

the DTI may find itself even more embarrassed.

The Times discovered this week that the Securities and Investments Board (SIB), the chief City regulator, conducted

covered by the protective umbrella of the City regulators and are not eligible for compensation through the Investors Compensation Scheme.

Meanwhile, investors do not

chairs, a chaise longue, the microwave and filing cabinets complete with their contents were gone. We were told the stuff had gone to marketing offices in Ollerton.

The Ostrich Sales and Marketing Corporation is based in New Ollerton, Nottingham. Brian Ketchell, OFC's managing director, is secretary and director of the New Ollerton company.

An action group for owners

Karen Zagor takes a look at an off-beat investment that is gaining in

## Problems could hatch from

It is possible an ostrich is an ostrich, but not all birds are created equal. The OFC has applied to the Advertising Standards Authority for the Ostrich Farming Corporation's permission to use the word 'ostrich' in its name. The ASA has agreed to accept the name 'Ostrich Farming Corporation' as the name of the company, but in other cases it would be preventing misleading claims. The ASA has also ruled that the OFC can use the word 'ostrich' in its name, but only if it is accompanied by a disclaimer such as 'not all birds are created equal'.

Early warning: in late December, The Times was testing claims of huge returns

Investors are left wondering whether the bird in the field will be worth the

International hunt for Ostrich Farming

By KAREN ZAGOR AND ROBERT MILLAR

International investigations among other countries in an effort to raise money. OFC's glossy brochures claimed that

Egg cracks: by April this year, investors were worried

**Move to wind up ostrich farming company**

Final act: winding-up nears

is being formed by Stephen Whitmore of Wilsons, a Salisbury firm of solicitors, tel: 01722 422979. A tape-recorded message from the Receiver's office is on 0171 637-6605. The Insolvency Service number is 0171 637-1110.

Inquiries by The Times this week indicated that important documents went missing from OFC's Nottingham headquarters in the days before the Receiver moved in. A former employee said: "When we got in on Monday, the freezer, the refrigerator, the coffee maker, two

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The value of investments and the income from

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

Richard Thomson reports on the uncertainty plaguing American investors

# Bonds fall prey to US market sentiment

You could hardly have got it more wrong if you tried. Jeffrey Vinik, manager of the \$56 billion Magellan Fund, America's largest mutual fund, loaded up with bonds at the worst moment. One day last February he poured millions into the market only hours before the worst single-day rout bonds had seen for eight years.

Since then, things have got worse. Something nasty is going on in the US bond market and Mr Vinik is only one victim. Bond prices were hammered again in March and yet again nine days ago. The yield on the benchmark 30-year Treasury bond, which rises as prices fall, has lurched from below 6 per cent to within a whisker of 7 per cent in a few weeks.

What has happened is that there has been a sharp change in sentiment over US interest rates. Bond prices usually fall on the back of what most people regard as good news, and so it has been recently.

Figures showing a sharp rise in employment suggested that the economy was stronger than expected, which in turn implied a rise in inflation, which further suggested that interest rates would have to rise to keep inflation under control.

Bonds hate rising interest rates, so bond prices fell. That is all a radical change from a couple of months ago when everyone was expecting interest rates to fall (which is why Mr Vinik piled into the bond market so disastrously).

The sell-off has been so sharp that it has prompted comparisons with early 1994, when a sudden change in market sentiment over interest rates sent bond prices into a nosedive.

Some analysts believe yields could still rise a lot further, to around 7.25 per cent in the near future.

At the same time, the stock market seems to have lost some of its bullishness, too. The same fear of inflation and rising interest rates triggered an 80-point fall in the Dow

Jones industrial average last Monday, but most of the market felt confident that prices would recover almost immediately. They didn't. Instead they fell for several days, pulling the Dow down 200 points, or nearly 4 per cent.

To many in the markets, the stock market's fall was necessary to catch up with bonds. They argued that the traditional relationship between the two markets had fallen out of sync in the last few weeks, and if bonds were not going to rise then shares had to decline.

Indeed, there is a growing number of market operators who believe that the bull market in shares has at last ground to a halt.

"The market has been overvalued for a long time," says Michael Metz, the equity strategist at Oppenheimer, the fund management group. "The market is in for a long-term decline."

What is particularly worrying is that for the first time in a long time the fall in prices has been broadly-based rather than concentrated in only a few big stocks.

Most of the bears expect a setback of at least 10 per cent

## The market has been overvalued for a long time. The market is in for a long-term decline

on the Dow — anything less would hardly count as a serious correction. Last week the market made half of that decline, but a further fall could feed a crucial element of panic into the market.

At the moment, however, panic is one thing that is simply lacking.

In fact, if you look at the amount ordinary investors are putting into the market you might think we are still in the middle of the greatest bull market this century. A staggering \$23 billion poured into a mutual fund (the US equivalent of unit trusts) in March which, although the third big-

That, of course, would give the bond market some much-needed encouragement.

The comparison with the bond market collapse of 1994 is also false, according to Charles Blood, head of research at Brown Brothers Harriman. "The elements that prompted the 1994 fall are not here this time."

In particular, what's missing is an actual rise in short-term interest rates. In 1994 it was an increase in rates by the Federal Reserve Board that triggered the fall. This time the Fed has done nothing so far, and short-term rates have stayed steady.

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Over there: Tony Blair's trip to America underlines its importance to UK investors

The pessimism in the bond market, thinks Blood, has simply been overdone. "Bonds will probably go sideways for a few months, with yields staying between about 6.5 per cent and 7 per cent."

That, he believes, is the worst that is likely to happen. After a few months, bond prices will then start to rise as the danger of rising interest rates passes and the market's fears are calmed. The stock market, meanwhile, will pick itself up, dust off and start another rally before the summer is out.

This is a persuasive point of view. Everything depends, of course, on what inflation does but there is not much evidence that it is about to burst out of its cage.

Certainly, the Fed is unlikely to lower interest rates any time soon but it is disappointment over that which seems to have sent the bond market into decline as much as any fear of rising rates. If the bond market realises this and levels out, the stock market should also regain heart.

The timing of all this, as always, is hard to predict. It is probably a mistake to start buying US stocks or bonds just yet, particularly while the markets are so turbulent. A waiting policy may be best for the next week or two while the real direction of the markets becomes clearer.

Sooner or later, however, it ought to be time to start looking around for bargains again after the price falls. Happy hunting.

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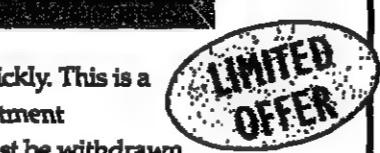
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# Watchdogs show their teeth as the mis-selling saga drags on

Helen Pridham says regulators are planning tougher measures to ensure justice is full and final

osity of these terms, plus aggressive marketing by pension providers, led to over five million people contracting out of Serps.

Two groups of workers who may have been wrongly advised to contract out were those on low earnings and people above certain age limits. The largest category is expected to be those on incomes of, say, significantly less than £10,000 a year, whose rebates were relatively small and who took out pension plans with companies that imposed high charges.

Particularly hard hit are those who lost their jobs or stopped working two or three years after opting out, before their policies had acquired much value. Some companies continue to levy fixed charges even when no rebate is being invested, so the value of the

small. For those concerned, particularly if they are low earners, the amounts are important and will be even more so by the time they reach retirement.

The problem with making redress voluntary is that the best companies which have probably not done so much harm will volunteer, while the companies which have really rocketed people will not.

However, there may be a simpler way of dealing with the matter than calling for a full review, such as letting companies pay a flat amount into policies that are affected.

Philip Telford, senior researcher of the Consumer Association's Money Group, said: "We would not be happy with any proposal by the regulators which resulted in anything less than those who had been mis-sold personal pension in place of Serps receiving proper compensation. But if another, quicker solution to the problem can be found than a mandatory review, then this may be better for everyone involved — consumers and the pensions industry alike."

"We would certainly be disappointed to see a repeat of the difficulties which have arisen with the review of pension transfers and opt-outs. We hope that lessons have been learned and that any potential problems have already been thrashed out."

Next week the PIA is expected to announce a range of penalties it will impose on those which it identifies are not doing enough. These will include reprimands and fines. Offenders may also have to take out press advertisements setting out disciplinary charges against them.

PIA will also be publishing a list of companies that have agreed to waive their limitation rights, so that investors do not lose their legal rights because of the six-year time limit. Most life assurance companies are still extremely nervous about discussing what headway they are making with the pensions review.

One exception is Barclays Life. Nigel Jerome, who is heading up Barclays review



Workers on low pay are likely to be hardest hit

team, says "We have nothing to hide. We have accepted there is a problem and are anxious to put things right as soon as we can. We have a dedicated team of 55 who are working aggressively to get through the review."

He says that Barclays Life has identified a total of 2,700 transfer cases and 12,000 opt-outs and non-jointers which have required review. So far 550 cases have been fully reviewed and all these investors have received or been offered compensation. A fur-

ther 600 cases are awaiting reinstatement to public sector pension schemes.

Around 1,300 cases have been reviewed and the cases closed where Barclays has found, after writing to employers that either there was no occupational pension scheme in existence or the investor was not eligible to join.

The largest amount of compensation paid out so far has been £86,000, but the average is around £6,000. Mr Jerome believes the average will fall to about £2,000.

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Step care escalation

A

ESCAPE



THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

Sarah Jones assesses the ups and downs of a popular investment plan

## Step with care into escalators

**A**nyone trawling round the shopping centre with a toddler will know that as soon as you have gone up the up escalator you have to look for the down escalator. Investors should bear that in mind when considering the ever-popular escalator bonds. Their capital may not actually go down the down escalator, but there are a few monsters under the up side.

### GUARANTEES

Escalator, or step-up, bonds run for three to five years, occasionally longer, and offer an interest rate that is guaranteed to rise, or step up, each year. Interest is paid yearly, or monthly at slightly lower rate. "All that's happening is that providers are masking lousy current rates with better future rates, in the sure knowledge that rates are going up anyway," says James Higgins of financial advisers Charnberian de Broe.

Banks and building societies make much of their escalator bond rising to "an outstanding rate" of 9 or 10 per cent in the final year of the bond. They fail to point out that such high rates are more than balanced by low initial rates. It is in the final year that bonds often make a much bigger leap and allow providers to make grand claims. A bond can look more attractive because of a high final rate but averaged out, to take into account lower initial rates, and it is not such a good deal.

### TAX

Rates are invariably quoted as gross but, unlike the riskier investment bonds, escalator bonds are taxable. So an average rate of 7.06 per cent becomes 5.65 per cent net.

### PENALTIES

The main drawback with esca-

lator bonds is the big lock-in period. Withdraw your investment before the three, four or five-year term is up and you have to pay a hefty penalty. Typically £187 mid-term on a £5,000 balance. No partial withdrawals are allowed and closures are not usually permitted within the first year.

### MINIMUM

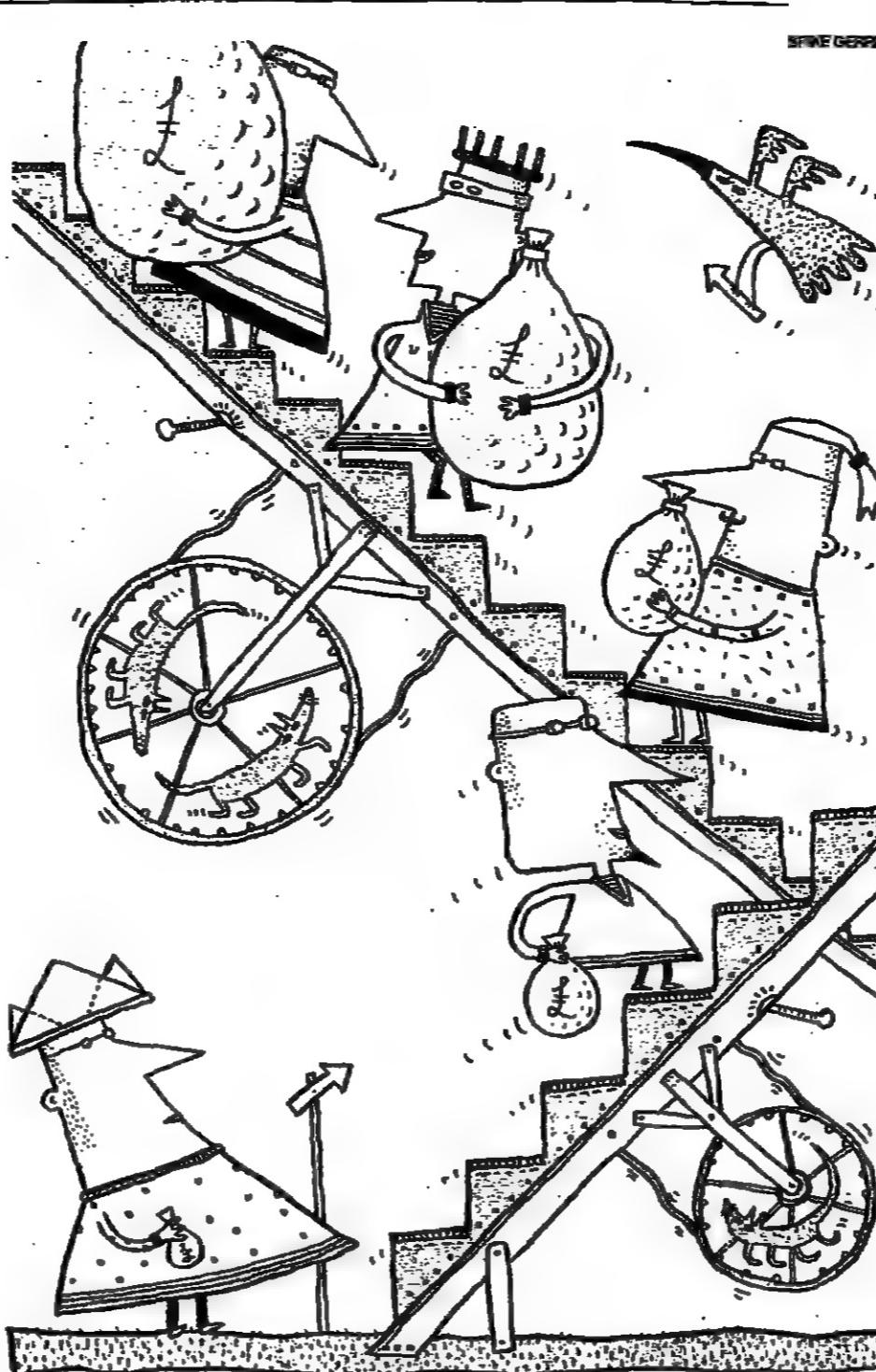
Escalator bonds also demand a high minimum investment, sometimes £2,000 but more often £5,000. The exceptions are the Portman and Woolwich building societies, at £500 and £1,000 respectively. On average, the Portman pays 6.95 per cent gross and the Woolwich 7 per cent.

This week has seen the launch of a market-leading rate from the Cheshire Building Society. Its new escalator bond pays 6.75 per cent gross in year one (6.50 per cent for monthly interest), increasing to 6.25 per cent (9 per cent monthly) in year four. That averages out at 7.75 per cent gross (7.5 per cent monthly) or 6.2 per cent net (6 per cent monthly).

The minimum balance is £5,000 and the early withdrawal penalty is 180 days' interest at 7.5 per cent. "Past experience tells us that the take up of this new bond will be very quick," says Paul Brennan, the Cheshire's marketing manager. "People are uncertain about interest rates and are looking for guarantees, especially guarantees that go up each year."

### WARNING

Once the term is up on your escalator bond make sure you do something with your investment. As with other fixed-term products, such as Tessas, providers transfer your money into an account paying a lower rate of interest.



## Savings at First Direct

**FIRST DIRECT**, the telephone banking service, has launched the Direct Interest Savings Account which offers one free immediate withdrawal per quarter.

This means First Direct customers can now get both a savings account and the option of instant access four times a year with no penalties.

On balances of £1,000 or more the new account gives better rates of interest than the big banks. It replaces the existing 60-Day Notice Account and comes with a quarterly interest statement.

NOP research shows First Direct customers are more likely to take a savings products. Ninety per cent of First Direct account customers have some form of savings against 68 per cent of all current account holders.

ESCALATOR BONDS						
Fixed-term investments with rates guaranteed to rise each year over the term:						
Min-Balances	1st Year	2nd Year	3rd Year	4th Year	5th Year	6th Year
Bank of Ireland (GB)	£5,000	6.00%	6.80%	6.50%	7.50%	12.00%
Barclays Bank	£2,000	5.75%	6.00%	6.25%	7.00%	10.00%
BHS	£20,000	5.75%	6.00%	6.00%	7.00%	10.00%
BTR	£25,000	5.75%	6.00%	6.25%	7.00%	10.00%
Chesterfield BS	£5,000	6.75%	7.25%	7.75%	8.25%	—
DENON 843277	£5,000	6.75%	7.25%	7.00%	8.25%	—
Co-operative BS	£2,000	5.75%	6.25%	7.00%	8.25%	—
Dunfermline BS	£2,000	5.75%	6.75%	7.25%	8.00%	—
First Direct 827727	£2,000	5.75%	6.00%	6.00%	7.00%	8.25%
Hargreaves Lansdown	£2,000	5.75%	6.00%	6.00%	7.00%	8.25%
Leopard Joseph	£2,000	6.75%	7.00%	8.00%	—	—
Newcastle BS	£5,000	7.00%	7.25%	8.00%	—	—
NTU 242424	£5,000	6.00%	6.00%	7.00%	8.00%	10.00%
Sun Banking Corp	£5,000	6.00%	6.00%	7.00%	8.00%	10.00%

All rates subject to change without notice. Please check all rates before investing. All rates shown Gross but Basic Rate Tax will be deducted from all interest payments unless the investor has registered as a non-taxpayer.  
Source: Moneyfacts

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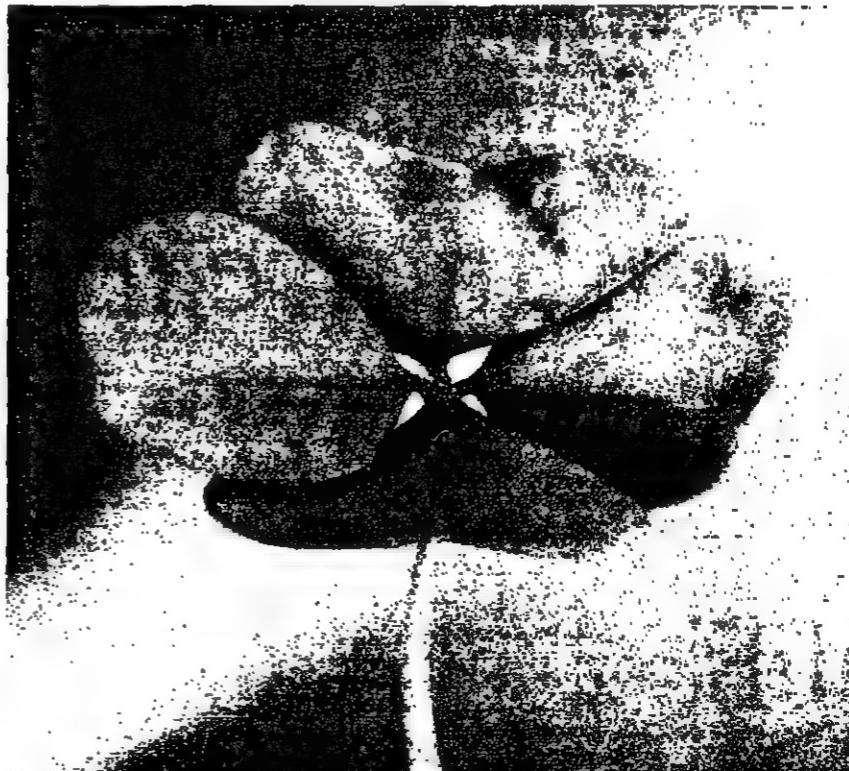
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## Software to help with tax calculation

TOO many people are paying too much tax, according to the Consumers' Association, but because their records are incomplete they are unable to check exactly how much they should be paying (Marianne Cuphey writes).

However, from now on you are legally obliged to keep a record of all income and capital gains in case you have to complete a tax return.

The Consumers' Association has put together a computer package called TaxCalc 1995-96 which claims to reduce the work involved in calculating tax and complying

with Inland Revenue requirements. On-screen prompts ask you to supply details of your income and outgoings and TaxCalc works out the minimum you are legally obliged to pay the Inland Revenue, and how much the Revenue may owe you.

The programme also lets you display and amend your figures, so you can judge the effects of changes in your circumstances. If you have a printer, you can print out your own Inland Revenue-approved tax returns and partners can even work simultaneously on two returns. It

includes an introduction to the Revenue's new policy of self-assessment and the CD-Rom version of TaxCalc includes the Inland Revenue video on self-assessment.

The programme also features the full text of a number of Inland Revenue tax advice leaflets on topics such as company cars, separation and divorce, and pensions.

TaxCalc also includes a comprehensive glossary and over 45 tax-saving tips. It costs £29.99 or £24.99 for members of the Consumers' Association and is available by calling Freephone 0800 252100.

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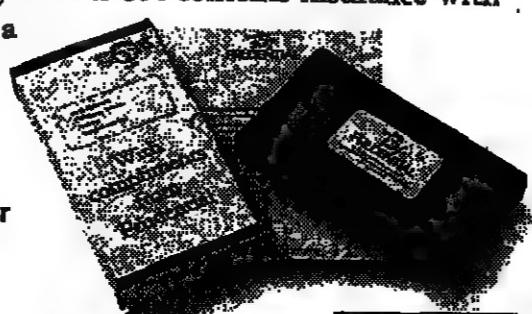
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PRUDENTIAL

# A funny old game, but the club's done well

Sarah Jones  
looks into  
the pros and  
cons of  
investing  
in football

This week watching shares in football clubs has been as exciting as the players' performances on the pitch.

As Manchester United moved ever closer to the FA Carling Premiership title, and with it the promise of riches in the European superleague, so its shares added 40p.

And as Millwall sank towards the relegation zone, its shares took another dive.

Meanwhile stockbrokers have report an unprecedented amount of interest in the Chelsea launch on the Alternative Investment Market.

Football clubs are becoming more and more like proper businesses, helped by lucrative television deals, corporate hospitality and strong merchandise sales.

"More clubs are realising that they have got a brand with value and are starting to market that brand," said Justin Urquhart Stewart, of Barclays Stockbrokers.

"Those that are doing well are in fact no longer football clubs but sports and leisure companies," he added. The latest float on the Alternative Investment Market (Aim) — Chelsea — is a case in point.

Investors are buying into not just the football club but Chelsea Village Plc, its parent company, which also has catering, clothing and hotel subsidiaries. A health club and gymnasium at the ground are due to open soon.

"It won't be long before the ancillary activities are earning more than the football club," said Robert Ellis, Chelsea's stockbroker.

Mr Ellis believes that Chelsea has a bright future. He expects its new developing leisure complex to help the club to rival or even surpass Manchester United.

Stockbrokers are surprised by the amount of interest in the Chelsea



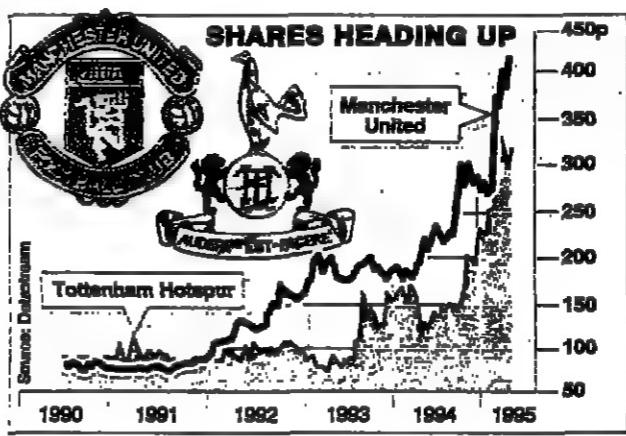
Share boosters: Manchester United's Ryan Giggs, left, and Chelsea's Ruud Gullit show on-pitch success is reflected in the price

launch. "The first day we had 400 purchases at Barclays, now it's down to 40 a day but that is remarkable for small market stock," added Mr Urquhart Stewart.

The other clubs quoted on Aim are Glasgow Celtic (whose shares were floated on the market last September at 65p and are currently priced at £105) and Preston North End, which were floated at 400p and are now priced at 430p.

More big clubs are rumoured to be joining them soon. Floating on the Alternative Investment Market is cheaper than on the stock market but still gives a club a higher profile and the chance to raise finance.

If a club can draw fans on to its share register, through



a shareholding, the chances are that they will also attract games regularly and buy the ever-changing strip.

There are three clubs —

Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur and Millwall — quoted on the stock market. Spurs' shares were launched in 1983 at 100p, reached a low when they were temporarily suspended in 1990 and then with the arrival of goal-scoring Jürgen Klinsmann started rising. They are now 310p.

Shares in Manchester United were offered at 385p in 1991. Within three years they had gained more than £3 and there was a bonus issue of four shares for every one held. This diluted the share price but it has continued to rise, especially as the season reaches its climax. Ten days ago the shares were 28p, now they are 346p.

Millwall's failure is a salutary tale. The shares were issued at 20p in 1989 but relegation and repeated failure to get back into the Premiership, with all the revenue from higher gates, TV deals and sponsorship that the top flight brings, has seen the shares slump to 24p. It still matters what a team does on the field. The greater the reliance on football income, the more volatile the share price will be. But with a club like Manchester United, which is running as a sport and leisurewear company, the share price will be more stable," said Mr Urquhart Stewart.

That leaves all the other clubs. Many will be quoted on Oxfex (the unregulated off-exchange market). Transactions are on a matched buyer basis through a stockbroker — if you want to buy 50 shares, someone else must be willing to sell them.

The smaller the club, the more difficult that will be and it is often a matter of contacting the club secretary to see if anyone wants to sell.

So should we invest in football clubs? "Only if you are a devoted fan," said Mr Urquhart Stewart. "Manchester United and Spurs have proved good investments, but with most clubs you'd be better off showing your love and devotion by purchasing a scarf."

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Principles: We



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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

WEEKEND MONEY 37

## Barclays launches schools software

**BARCLAYS** Bank has launched a PC-based school banking package. There are currently 200 Barclays school banks operating, enabling children to complete most of the transactions available in a high-street branch, such as paying in their money and requesting a statement.

The PC-based package will provide an additional way for pupils to access their account at the same time as learning about finance and money management. For more information, call 0800 400100.

A guide to pensions, Peps, endowment mortgages and other ethical investment plans has been published by Eiris, the Ethical Investment Research Department (Bens). Help the Aged, St James's Walk, London, EC1R 0BE.

**The Ernst & Young Tax Savers' Companion 1996** provides up to date tax information, including changes announced in the November 1995 Budget and 1996 Finance Bill. The guide highlights tax-saving opportunities and offers advice on self-assessment and financial planning. Available in bookshops from April 25, priced at £9.99.

Pensioners could be miss-

LIZANNE ROSE

### GUARANTEED INCOME BONDS

ANNUAL INCOME Rates as at April 11, 1996			
Investment (£)	Company	Standard Rate (%)	
1 Year			
5,000	AIG Life	5.00	
10,000	AIG Life	5.10	
20,000	AIG Life	5.20	
50,000	AIG Life	5.30	
2 Years			
5,000	AIG Life	5.58	
10,000	Premium Life	5.88	
20,000	Premium Life	5.93	
50,000	Premium Life	6.03	
3 Years			
5,000	AIG Life	5.82	
10,000	AIG Life	5.87	
20,000	AIG Life	6.12	
50,000	AIG Life	6.27	
4 Years			
5,000	AIG Life	5.02	
10,000	AIG Life	5.32	
20,000	AIG Life	6.42	
50,000	AIG Life	6.47	
5 Years			
1,000	Premium Life	5.80	
3,000+	Pinnacle Insur	6.75	

Source: Chancerydata Brokers 0171 524 4222. Past, present and capital guarantees. Early withdrawal terms vary. Mortality factors may be deducted.

### SAVERS' BEST BUYS

INSTANT ACCESS ACCOUNTS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Portman BS 01202 292444	Instant Access	Instant	£100	4.80	Y/y
Skipton BS 01766 700511	High Street	Instant	£2,500	5.10	Y/y
Northern Rock BS 0500 505000	Postal	£5,000	6.25	AV/y	
Leeds & Holbeck BS 0113 2438292	Albion	Postal	£10,000	5.60	Y/y

NOTICE ACCOUNTS & BONDS	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Nivich & Pibroch BS 01733 391497	Postal 10	10 day p	£10,000	6.10	Y/y
Coveney BS 0345 665522	Postal 50	50 day	£2,000	5.45	Y/y
Scarborough BS 0800 590578	Scarborough 75	75 day	£1,000	6.30	Y/y
	120 Account	120 day	£25,000	6.75	Y/y

FIRST TESSAS (TAX FREE)	Account	Notice of term	Deposit	Rate	Interest paid
Sun Banking Corp 01458 744505		5 year	£5,755	7.40	F/Y/y
Cheltenham & Gloucester 0800 717505		5 year	£3,000	7.25	Y/y
Birmingham Midshires 0845 720721		5 year	£1,000	7.25	Y/y
Principality BS 01222 344188		5 year	£25	7.25	Y/y

VISA	CREDIT CARDS BEST BUYS
ROBERT FLEMING/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa
ROBERT FLEMING/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa
FRIZZEL BANK 0800 373191	MasterCard/Visa

### PERSONAL LOANS BEST BUYS

CREDIT CARDS	Card type	Interest per month	APR%	Fee per annum
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	0.92%C	11.50%	N/A
Robert Fleming/S&P 0800 829024	MasterCard/Visa	1.00%	14.00%	£12
Frizzel Bank 0800 373191	MasterCard/Visa	1.17%	16.10%	£21

YORKSHIRE BANK 0113 2815324  
Direct Line 0141 2489968  
Midland Bank 0800 1801800

NB: A = bonus if account opened by 30/4/96, C = no interest free period, D = for debt consolidation only, E = Available to comprehensive motor insurance policy holders over 22 years, F = Fixed Rate (all other rates variable), G = Annual rate % above R Fleming rate, Old denotes interest paid on maturity, P = By Post only

\* RATES SHOWN ARE GROSS AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT NOTICE  
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Source: MoneyFacts, the Monthly Guide to Investment & Mortgage Rates (0181 500 677)

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FDPC

### When the system fails to offer an explanation for loss

From Mr W. Doward

Sir, Your article on cheque clearance ("What a difference a day makes," Weekend Money, March 30) might be supplemented by reference to the experience of those who, like me, have monthly remittances sent directly from an overseas bank to a UK bank, in my case Barclays.

My pension is paid into the Standard Chartered Bank in Hong Kong. By standing order, I have a certain sum remitted by airmail, bank to bank, on the first of the month.

An advice is sent to me from the bank in Hong Kong at the same time and usually arrives about the sixth or seventh of the month, so it is reasonable to assume that the Standard Chartered Bank's cheque reaches Barclays Bank the same day.

It generally appears on my statement at the end of the month as having been credited about the eighth of the month, but, on the odd occasion when I have needed the funds urgently, I have been advised that in fact it takes up to five working days to clear and is not available for that time or most of it.

Leaving aside the valid question as to why it should take five days to clear a bank cheque, I also wonder who has my money between the time it is debited to my account in Hong Kong on the first of the month and the time it is

available for my use about the fifteenth. It must be somewhere.

Yours faithfully,  
**WILLIAM DOWARD,**  
Waulkmill, Skirfing,  
Bigger, Lanarkshire.

From Mr W. Farrar  
Sir, This letter is prompted by the article (Weekend Money, March 30) on cheque clearance allied to snail-mail.

On January 11<sup>th</sup> I posted a £4,000 personal cheque from Pontefract to C&G by post at Fareham, Hampshire. It was in a C&G 1st class prepaid window envelope, with the address machine printed on the enclosed paying-in slip.

The Royal Mail's explanation ("excuse") was that the address was partly obscured, but admitted that the delay was too long, the turnaround at that time being ten days. I wonder if the item just got lost in the system (eg. stuck at the bottom of a mailbag). Whatever it was, I am the poorer by the loss of interest over six weeks, for which the Royal Mail accepts no responsibility.

Yours faithfully,  
**WALTER FARRAR,**  
1 Barnley Road,  
Ackworth, Pontefract.

### Case for Pensioners Guaranteed Bonds

From Mr O. Hare

Sir, I refer to Mr Shock's letter of March 30 concerning National Savings Pensions Guaranteed Income Bonds. Even at 7 per cent (earlier this year, the rate on Series 2 was 7.5 per cent), the choice between them and gilts seems to me debatable, since there is no commission to pay on buying or selling (as there is with gilts purchased through the National Savings Stock Register), the interest is paid monthly, as opposed to half-yearly, and the penalty of 60 days' loss of interest on encashment before the expiry date may well be considerably less than would be foreclosed following an enforced sale of

C&G received it on February 21 (almost six weeks later) via the Royal Mail dead-letter office in Belfast.

The Royal Mail's explanation ("excuse") was that the address was partly obscured, but admitted that the delay was too long, the turnaround at that time being ten days. I wonder if the item just got lost in the system (eg. stuck at the bottom of a mailbag). Whatever it was, I am the poorer by the loss of interest over six weeks, for which the Royal Mail accepts no responsibility.

Yours faithfully,  
**WALTER FARRAR,**  
1 Barnley Road,  
Ackworth, Pontefract.

### Letters or information for Weekend Money may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5082. Letters should include a daytime telephone number.

Yours faithfully,  
**OWEN HARE,**  
32 Trafalgar Road,  
Cirencester,  
Gloucestershire.

Yours faithfully,  
**OWEN HARE,**  
32 Trafalgar Road,  
Cirencester,  
Gloucestershire.

### Handout? Handout? Oh the 1½% handout

From Mr R. Ellis  
Sir, Revenue has eye on £17 billion handouts. March 23. When, in 1988, the Bolton Building Society merged with C&G and, in 1991, the Southampton Building Society was taken over, I benefited by a miserly 1½ per cent in each case and tax was deducted at 25 per cent. So what's new?

Yours sincerely,  
**REGINALD ELLIS,**  
4, Ringstead Court,  
Ringstead Road,  
Sutton, Surrey.

'Massive handouts' means our own little mess: Shareholders will each get what amounts to seven and sixpence of the old money. That's after tax.



### Alternative route to US rental car insurance

From Mr M. Millwood  
Sir, The plight of Mr France and Ms Pilkington concerning their motor accident in the US and the subsequent threat of litigation for which Mr France is not insured ("The right route for US car insurance", March 23) prompts me to reveal to your readers a cheap way to avoid such problems.

While collision damage waiver for small and medium-sized rental cars in the US is currently \$13.99 a day or \$61 a week, if purchased with the tour company in this country it can be secured for £5.00 a

### Unit-linked loser asks why

From Mr N. Uberoi  
Sir, with reference to the comment (March 30) on Clerical Medical's change of heart, I have had a 10-year savings plan since 1985, with only two years to maturity but am excluded from the takeover bonus as it is unit-linked.

I am a long-term customer who has contributed to Clerical Medical's wealth... as well as the with-profits holders. Why am I excluded?

Yours sincerely,  
**NEEL UBEROI,**  
"Woodlands", Firs Road,  
Kenley, Surrey.

### PRIVATISATION PERFORMANCES

SHARE	ISSUE DATE	CHANGE ON ISSUE PRICE £S OF 21.100 %
Amersham	February 1982	486.82
Assoc. British Ports	February 1983	735.71
British Aerospace	April 1984	248.87
British Airports Authority	July 1981	494.67
British Airways	September 1985	157.87
British Gas	July 1987	298.73
British Petroleum	February 1987	383.60
British Steel	December 1986	77.04
British Telecom	June 1977	55.71
Cable and Wireless	October 1979	339.78
Enterprise Oil	September 1983	264.48
Rolls-Royce	October 1987	50.15
National Power	December 1988	87.40
PowerGen	December 1984	174.23
Scottish Power	July 1993	-13.05
Scottish Hydro	November 1981	548.55
Northern Ireland Elec.	November 1983	202.90
Regional Elec. Companies	March 1985	20.00
Eastern Electricity Plc	May 1987	98.92
East Midlands Electricity Plc	March 1991	149.14
London Electricity Plc	February 1995	26.24
Marweb Plc	March 1991	193.71
Midlands Electricity Plc	February 1995	38.92
Northern Electricity Plc	June 1991	58.33
NORWEB Plc	June 1991	47.92
SEEBORD Plc	June 1991	88.18
Southern Electricity Plc	November 1990	348.17
South Wales Electricity Plc	November 1990	245.00
South West Electricity Plc	November 1990	253.75
Western Electricity Plc	November 1990	302.08
Yorkshire Electricity Grp Plc	November 1990	199.58
Water Companies	November 1990	306.25
Anglian Water Plc	November 1990	155.31
Northumbrian Water Grp Plc	November 1990	158.57
North West Water Group	November 1990	312.50
Severn Trent Plc	November 1990	225.00
Southern Water Plc	November 1990	148.25
South West Water Plc	November 1990	157.50
Thames Water Plc	November 1990	186.87
Welsh Water Plc	November 1990	108.33
Wessex Water Plc	November 1990	126.25
Yorkshire Water Plc	November 1990	207.50
National Grid	November 1990	39.58
	December 1995	1.47

- 1 Taken over by Hanson @ 975p
- 2 Taken over by Scottish Power @ 900p
- 3 Merged with North West Water
- 4 Taken over by Central & Western of USA @ 535.4p
- 5 Merging with Welsh Water
- 6 Taken over by Southern Electric of USA @ 865p
- 7 Taken over by Lyonnaisse @ 1179p
- 8 Merged with Norweb for United Utilities
- 9 Merging with South Wales Electricity

Source: *Privatisation, The Facts* published by Price Waterhouse  
More detailed privatisation statistics next week

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Anachronistic opening should soothe fevered brows amid clamour for change

## Limbering up for a season of uncertainty

BY ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

IT IS an apologetic start for a potentially apocalyptic cricket season. Public clamour for change in the game is at fever pitch and the demand is for a tearing down of all things traditional. Yet, on a chilly second Saturday of April, anachronism is defiantly sustained as the first-class programme opens — weather permitting — with a game between Oxford University and Leicestershire.

There were years when this was a comforting ritual, as gently springlike as the smell of new-mown grass, but that was in less turbulent times. Now, in the violent backwash of a World Cup that concentrated minds on the inadequacies of English cricket as seldom before, there is something frustratingly fooling about the season starting with an inconsequential and largely unnoticed shiver in The Parks.

The witnesses to this ancient and obsolete tradition will be the usual mixture of enthusiasts emerging from hibernation, noting their attendance like trainspotters marking down another engine and ruminating on many a previous opening day. The occasion, and the setting, are quintessentially English, which is the abiding dilemma for the proponents of modernism and revolution.

Like it or not, there is still a unique attraction about the measured tread of the domestic season. There is even something quaint, almost worth preservation, about the triviality in Oxford today, but, if quality control were imposed, little would survive.

It is the heightened awareness of this that will dominate the coming months, for all cricket this season is destined to be played in a studied limbo, rather like a decaying house with a disputed demolition.

I THINK as sporting assaults go, that one policeman equals two referees, so I had better give these stories equal billing. The policeman was allegedly assaulted by the coach of Real Betis football team in Spain; the referee by the coach of Lethbridge Hurricanes ice hockey team in Canada (so they do notice such things out there).

First to Spain, where Lorenzo Serra Ferrer, the Real Betis team coach, was given a parking ticket by a policeman who supported their city rivals, Sevilla. Ferrer reacted angrily, and was locked up for four hours, accused of kicking the copper; the coach denies it.

The whole incident is because of the pain of our 21-point advantage over Sevilla," Manuel Ruiz de Lopera, the Real Betis owner, said. He said that the policeman was responsible for the fact that Real Betis dropped a couple of points by drawing 2-2 with Racing Santander last weekend. Incidentally, Diego himself was once briefly a Sevilla player; he was given a speeding ticket by a policeman who supported Real Betis.

Meanwhile, up in mouse country, Bryan Maxwell, coach of the Hurricanes, was a trifle upset after two late penalties allowed Regina Pats to sneak a 6-5 victory. Maxwell took on both Brent Reiber, the referee, and Jeff Klick, a linesman. He has been suspended for a year and fined Can\$1,000 (£500). He has been banned from attending games until February 1997. He is also due to appear in court next month charged with uttering threats. Herman Elfring, the Hurricanes' president, said that he was disappointed at the length of the suspension.

### Lend a hand

No sign of John Major's cricket bat in the Long Room at Lord's, but the baseball glove of George Bush, the former United States President, is to go on show in the Baseball Hall of Fame. Bush played first base for Yale in 1947 and 1948. He was captain, and the team won the National College Athletic Association Championship in both years. Bush played 51 games

in order. One of the standing jokes about cricket in England is that nothing ever changes, yet there is evident scope for 1996 to alter that perception.

Behind the familiar scenes,

activity will be focused on two significant fronts — the administration of the game at all levels in England and the management and preparation of the national team. By the autumn, substantial streamlining should have taken place in both areas. If it has not, those responsible will have the state of English cricket on their consciences.

Soon, we are assured, the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB), with its unwieldy chains of command and its tendency to a self-sustaining parochialism, will give way to a new and better body, the English Cricket Board. The difference remains unfathomable to most, but, if it achieves nothing else, it must bestow decision-taking powers on its executives to bypass the bureaucratic bottleneck that so impedes advancement in the game.

Simultaneously, and with far greater public appreciation, the working party chaired by David Afleck is trying to identify how the declining fortunes of the England team can be arrested and reversed. Theirs is a small, select gathering with a formidable assignment; at the very least, they deserve the guarantee that their recommendations will be respected, by the counties who must consider them, rather more than the binned and pigeon-holed offerings of previous such committees.

In fairness, there are distinct signs of stirring in the shires. For too long, too many counties have concerned themselves with their local priorities even at the evident expense of the national interest.

Perhaps this is changing, judging by the encouraging acceptance of three points for a draw in the county championship this year, and of playing games from Wednesday to Saturday, without the ludicrous interruption of a 40-over game, as from next year.

These may seem minor changes, but they represent a notable shift of thinking, an acknowledgement that all is not well; and it is by such fine-tuning that benefits will accrue, rather than by the apocalyptic blustering that has unhelpfully raged since England returned home prematurely from the World Cup.

In a few weeks, the game has suffered the shambles of an aborted election for the

chairmanship of the selection committee and, now, potential chaos from a gratuitously over-subscribed application list of selectors. This has been accompanied by such a chorus of unhelpful and often uninformed rhetoric from the chairmen and chief executives of various counties that fresh directives on those who should make public comments, and when, can shortly be expected from the disciplinary arm of the TCCB.

It has been a troubled start to spring, the decibels too high, the logic too low. Maybe, after all, it needs a day like today, in that timelessness, that country-in-the-city feel of The Parks to soothe some fevered brows.

THE bad weather that returned yesterday threw up the prospect of an opening day at The Parks spent watching the rain streaking down the pavilion windows, with intervals for the occasional watery pitch inspection and three-sweater forays to loosen up on the outfield.

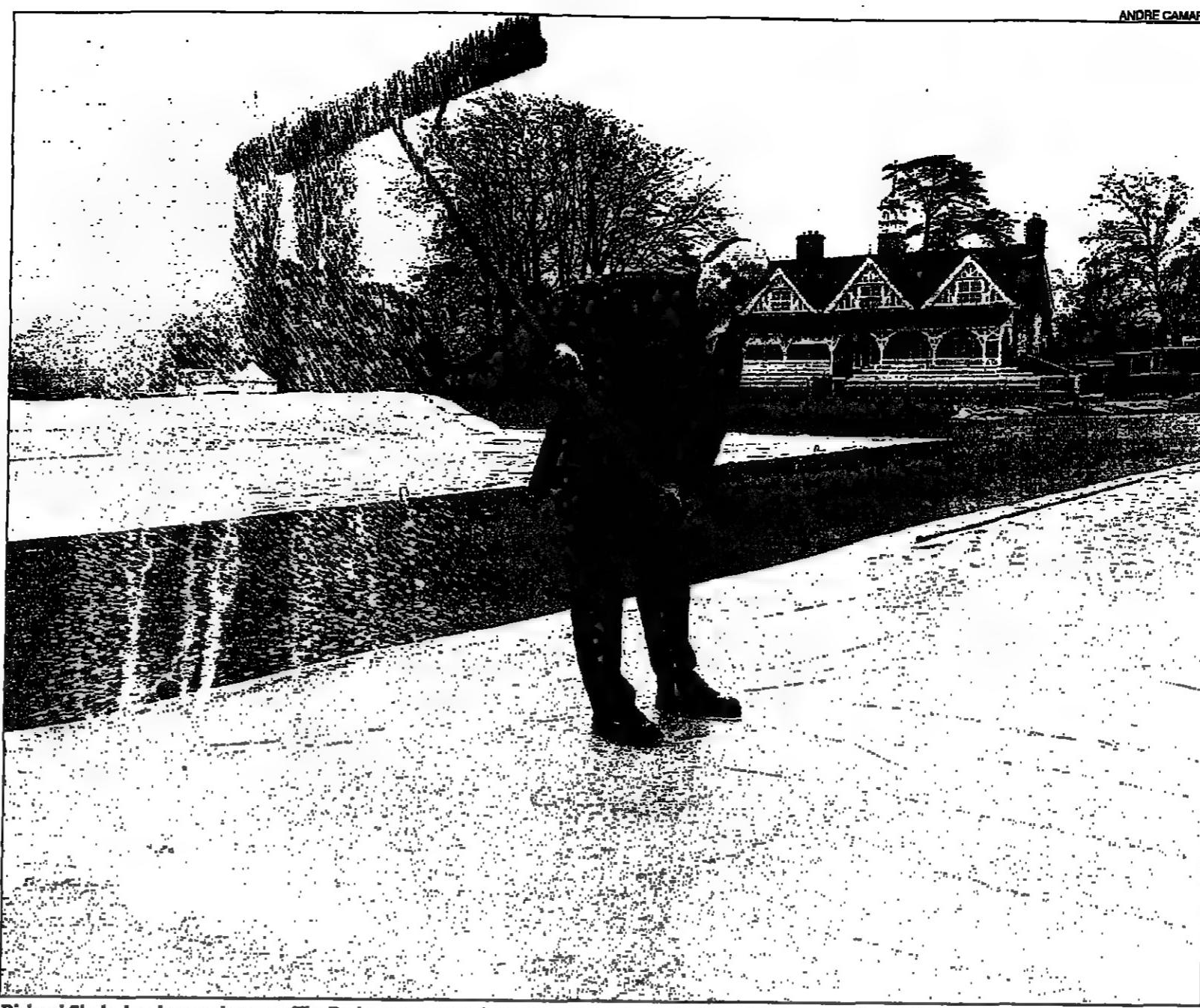
Oxfordshire cricket may be discredited as a first-class force, but the counties show no rush to give up on their early-season visits. Opportunities beckon for young players among them Gregor Macmillan and Darren Maddy, who will open the

innings for Leicestershire. Macmillan, who led Oxford to victory in the University match last year, scoring an unbeaten hundred, starts his first full county season despite the handicap of a hairline fracture in his hand.

Maddy gets his chance to establish himself after Nigel Briers, who stepped down as Leicestershire captain at the end of last season, was ruled out for the first two months of the campaign after knee surgery. Oxford are captained this year by Chinmay Gupte.

Mark Benson, the Kent captain, will miss the start of

ANDRE CAMARA



Richard Shula, head groundsman at The Parks, spent yesterday preparing for the start of the cricket season. Oxford University meet Leicestershire today

## Wintry outlook at The Parks

**Britain fail to learn lessons of defeats on world stage**

FROM NORMAN DE MESQUITA IN EINDHOVEN

GREAT Britain's ice hockey players had a rest from world championship competition here yesterday, although they did practise. The need to eliminate unnecessary penalties when they face Poland and Holland today and tomorrow should have been their priority.

After another rest day on Monday, Britain face Japan on Tuesday and, to survive in pool B, must win at least two of these three games. It was interesting that, after their 6-1 loss to Latvia, the Japanese coaching staff said that they were satisfied with their team's performance and described it as a learning experience.

So far Britain appear to have learnt nothing and the lack of discipline in the first two games has cost them dear. In those games, opponents have given 17 power plays and seven of the 13 goals conceded have come with a British player in the penalty box.

The average age of the squad is another factor in the disappointing performances and Peter Woods, the coach, chose to play Paul Dixon, 22, rather than Terry Kurtenbach, 33, in the final period of the game against Switzerland.

It is time that some attention was paid to the future and room must be found in the squad for talented young British-born and trained players rather than ageing Canadians, many of whom are only in Britain because they were not good enough to forge a significant career in Canada.

The future of the domestic game continues to be clouded in uncertainty, but it could become clearer after a meeting in Blackpool this weekend, that will be attended by those clubs not in the proposed Super League.

The Super League is back to seven teams with the addition of Ayr, but exactly when their 3,000-seat Centrum will be ready seems to be yet another unknown factor. After ten years of stability, British ice hockey seems not to know where exactly it is going and some positive news is overdue.

## Coaches in collision with forces of law and order

SIMON BARNES  
On Saturday

and had a batting average of .251 with 23 RBI.

### Doubtful digit

Now for news of the most important single finger in the history of sport. Its owner is, of course, Shane Warne ... and the nature of the golden digit's continuous state of injury has become one of life's great mysteries. Now, Warne is planning a trip to the United States for laser treatment. "Definitely not desperation move," Warne said; but he confesses to worry: "I want to get back to bowling my main delivery, the big leg break."

I hope it's just your poorly finger your spinning me, Mr Warne.

SELECTOR FOR



break. It is the ball I have built my game around, but it is also the ball that seems to have done some damage to the finger. The sooner it is fixed, the better. A lot of people seem to be talking about my spinning finger and just what is wrong. I have to say I have had just about enough of it all."

### Price of progress

This column will not be taking part in the Flora London Marathon next weekend. The event, one of sport's instant traditions, seems always to have been with us, always the same, but this is not quite true.

## King leads domestic challenge at Belton

BY JENNY MACARTHUR

MARY KING, a winner of a team gold medal and an individual bronze at the European three-day-event championships in Italy last year, will give King William and Star Appeal her Olympic Games contenders, a final outing before Badminton at the Belton Pedigree Chum Horse Trials in Lincolnshire this weekend.

Belton's big, technical course provides ideal preparation for Badminton and the trials have attracted most of the sport's leading names. Lucy Thompson, of Ireland, the European champion, and Mark Todd, of New Zealand, the dual Olympic champion, lead the overseas challenge.

British riders include William Fox-Pitt and Ian Stark, winners of their sections at Brigstock last week, and Kristina Gifford and Charlotte Bathie, members of the gold medal-winning team in Italy last year.

King, whose first child, Emily, was born at the end of January, has barely been out of action. She was riding two weeks after the birth and, last month, won at Dynes Hall, on King William, and was third, on Star Appeal, her 1995 Punchestown winner.

This weekend, if the going is as good as expected, King will let both horses "howl on". With Karen Dixon (Too Smart) and Gifford (Midnight Blue and General Jock), King has a chance of being selected for Atlanta for both the individual and team contests.

Todd looks to have one of the best chances this weekend with Bertie Blunt, one of his two Badminton entries and a winner at Belton last year. Though successful in one-day horse trials, the partnership has yet to complete a four-star event. At Burghley two years ago, Todd was eliminated after missing out a flag on the roads and tracks phase. At Badminton last year, where Todd rode most of the cross-country with only one stirrup, Bertie Blunt failed the final horse inspection.

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# Gloucester die-hards add spice to Ladies Day

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

**T**HE Shed, that famed quarter of Gloucester's ground at Kingsholm, played a starring role in the victory over Bath on Wednesday night that has had such an impact at the top and the bottom of the first division of the Courage Club Championship. It is the standing area from which emanate not only the most ribald of advice to visiting teams but even a fanzine whose qualities are as direct as traditional Gloucester forward play.

After they had inflicted only the second League defeat of this season, on Bath, the Gloucester players paid tribute to the rolling waves of support from the Shed. Its occupants reflect, more than anyone, the traditional passion for rugby at Kingsholm: if its energy could be bottled, Gloucester would put it up for sale and, as their ground is developed over the next decade, they will contrive to keep the Shed in place.

The plan is for an 18,000 capacity, all-seat stadium, but club officials will do all they can, within the limits of the Safety of Sports Grounds Act, to maintain the raw, intimidating atmosphere that oozes from that side of Kingsholm. Today, the Shepherds, as their fanzine is known, visit decorous Harlequins, on the day when the London club inaugurates Ladies Day with a display of modelling by several leading players.

There could be no greater contrast between the city slickers and the earthy West Countrymen: it is not for the fact that Harlequins have proved no soft touch this season and stand third in the table while Gloucester require more than victory over Bath to move clear of the relegation zone. Yet, now, they see some light at the end of this season's tunnel and restore Mark

Far removed from such lofty issues, Newcastle's junior teams hope to form a new club of their own. There is no room for junior rugby at Kingston Park after this season and the players affected have discussed with Northumbria University the possibility of a new organisation at the nearby Bullocksteeds ground.

"The stance the RFU has taken is unfortunate and we will have to consider what has happened when we meet the WRU on April 18," Alan Meredith, the spokesman for the Welsh first division clubs, said. "Wales, Scotland, Ireland and France are looking



Phil Davies is hoping for success in the Swalec Cup after more than a decade of sterling service at Llanelli

## Welsh take turn on centre stage

By DAVID HANDS

**I**F THE spotlight is on Welsh rugby today, it is not merely because of the semi-finals of the Swalec Cup. All week, England's leading clubs have stressed the moral support that they have received not only from their counterparts in Wales but also from the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU). The WRU, it is said, has approved the competitive structure proposed by the English clubs that runs counter to that put forward by the Rugby Football Union (RFU).

"The stance the RFU has

taken is unfortunate and we will have to consider what has happened when we meet the WRU on April 18," Alan Meredith, the spokesman for the Welsh first division clubs, said. "Wales, Scotland, Ireland and France are looking

for a way forward that suits all of us, but the RFU is standing on its own."

The leading English clubs see the Welsh authorities in constructive talks with their clubs and yearn for the same with the RFU so that plans can be put in motion for next season. All of which is ironic given the raids that English clubs are making on Welsh talent of today's semi-finalists, for example, Phil Davies will join Leeds this summer. Lee Jarvis and Leigh Davies are being pursued by English clubs and the Llewellyn brothers are moving to London.

Whether Jarvis, the precocious Pontypridd stand-off half, plays against Llanelli at Bridgend in the earlier of today's two games remains to be decided. Neil Jenkins, the international stand-off, has suffered from flu all week, but

his club will leave the position open as long as possible — bearing in mind the five penalties that Jenkins kicked against Llanelli a year ago that carried them to a 20-14 win and a place in the final.

Pontypridd, the "nearly"

club of Wales, would give

much to lose that tag; second in the Heineken League, second in last year's Cup final, a trophy would put the seal on the lengthy career of Nigel Bezzani, their 39-year-old captain and prop forward, who retires at the end of this season. However, Llanelli would like to do as much for Phil Davies, the former Wales lock, who has been an outstanding servant for more than a decade.

Newport, who began this season expecting it to be one of transition, now stand on the verge of a League and Cup double. Their recent League

matches included a 65-23 defeat of Newport, a scoreline enlarged by four interception tries, but a tight Cup match may be different from League games, whose results are distorted by the bonus points system operating this season.

Jonathan Humphreys, the Wales captain, is among critics of the bonus system that rewards teams for scoring tries even when they are on the wrong end of a hiding. "Will Neath players have won it takes to win a tight match?" Humphreys said. "It's not that I doubt our strength, but winning games by 90, 70 or 50 points every week does nothing for you or the opposition."

Newport, who began this season expecting it to be one of transition, now stand on the

verge of a League and Cup double. Their recent League

## Tradition dies hard at Border sevens

By MARK SOISTER

**I**N THESE fast-changing times for rugby union, nothing, it appears, is sacred, not even the Melrose Sevens, of which the tournament today is the 106th. Whereas the Border sevens circuit in April once brought a neat end to the season, the advent of professionalism and the necessity to show-horn ever more matches into the domestic and international calendar has placed a question mark, not against their continued existence, but at least their position and status in the season.

This year, the latter stages of inaugural national knockout cup competition sponsored by Tennents, have had to be accommodated on successive Sundays to avoid clashing with cherished sevens tournaments, which, for most clubs, represent the difference between profit and loss.

It will not happen next year and, with the five nations' championship being pushed back to April from 1997-98, clubs like Gala, Melrose, Hawick, Jed-Forest and Langholm know that, however reluctantly, the pressure on them to reschedule their tournaments either to a Sunday, or en bloc, to either May or August, a scenario backed by Rob Wainwright, the Scotland captain, is mounting.

Nobody is suggesting that the seven-a-side game, steeped in tradition as it is, particularly in the Borders, where the first tournament was held at Melrose in 1883, is an anachronism that should be jettisoned. Stuart Henderson, the Melrose secretary, said: "We cannot do anything else but consider moving if that is the reality, but when I just don't know. One thing is certain though — the Melrose Sevens will continue. The players and spectators demand it."

He has a point. A crowd of only 1,500 watched Melrose beat Boroughmuir in one of the finest club matches for years three weeks ago. Today, ten times that number will descend on the Greenyards to watch 20 teams, including the holders, Melrose, from Australia, and the other overseas competitors, Stellenbosch University, from South Africa, compete with the cream of Scottish talent as well as sides from Oxford University and Loughborough.

The six-hour jamboree, with its benefits for the local economy, should prove durable enough to out-stay the challenger, but, if Lopez turns out to be a boxer as well as a puncher, Loughran could expect to find himself in serious difficulties.

On the undercard is an explosive WBO light-flyweight contest between Jake Matlala, 34, of South Africa, the champion, and Paul Weir, 28, of Scotland. This is their second meeting. Matlala won the last encounter, in Glasgow in November, in five rounds, the bout being stopped because of a cut sustained by Weir.

The referee's intervention in that contest did Weir a favour. It saved him from being knocked out in the next few seconds, and it also ensured a return match because of the protest lodged by Tommy Gilmour, Weir's manager.

This time, Matlala's pressure should again prove too much for Weir.

## Display of power needed by Loughran

By SRIKOMAR SEN

BOXING CORRESPONDENT

**E**AMONN LOUGHREAN, of Northern Ireland, has another chance to establish himself as one of the world's leading welterweights tonight. Loughran has made five defences of his World Boxing Organisation (WBO) title, but, so far, has failed to excite.

José Luis Lopez of Mexico, at the Everton Park Sports Centre and, as Lopez is a puncher, like Loughran, it should make for good television. It would go a long way to earning Loughran recognition if he could dispose of Lopez.

Lopez is a mandatory challenger and, in view of the tough opposition that can normally be expected from Mexicans, one cannot be certain of victory for Loughran.

So far, the champion has not shown anything in his five defences to suggest that he is well enough equipped to deal with all-comers.

Little is known about Lopez's boxing ability other than



Loughran: tough task

that he has a respectable record of 34 wins out of 38 contests, of which he has won 26 on stoppages.

If the bout turns out to be a slugging match, Loughran should prove durable enough to out-stay the challenger, but, if Lopez turns out to be a boxer as well as a puncher, Loughran could expect to find himself in serious difficulties.

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## Review of league structure follows Orkney decision

Mark Souster reports on a change of heart for rugby north of the border

**A** month ago, Orkney Rugby Club would not have considered itself the driving force or catalyst for radical change. However, its epic and ultimately successful confrontation with the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) over the right to play national league rugby, and not be debarred by reason of geography, has triggered a wholesale review of the divisional structure north of the border.

Yesterday, the SRU an-

nounced a consultation process with all clubs to "promote and encourage rugby" across the country. It said the leagues should be "fully inclusive rather than exclusive and will not discriminate by reason of geography".

In a letter to clubs, the SRU reaffirmed its intent to support rugby at whatever level to the limit of their — the clubs' — talent or ambition. To help clubs to fulfil league or cup commitments at places like

such a move, although the Orkney issue does raise that possibility.

Andy Little, the champion-convenor, said: "Our original decision not to allow Orkney to take part in the play-offs for possible promotion, which we gladly overruled when we again

canvassed the views of clubs in the sixth and seventh divisions, not only raised issues of principle but also practicality, in particular whether the current leagues structure is sufficiently sensitive to the wishes and financial resources of clubs in the lower divisions."

He continued: "The SRU wishes to use this as a catalyst in helping clubs at all levels to reach consensus about the kind of league structures they wish, in the context of retaining

ing seven divisions, but which, as a central tenet, should address the fact that principle and practicality are two sides of the same coin. The championship committee is the administrator of the championship but it is the clubs' league, and we listen to the clubs' views."

It is hoped that the first

results from the consultation exercise would be available in time for the SRU's annual general meeting on June 28.

Orkney, who next week start their play-off campaign for a place in division seven, the SRU could consider assistance through a travel fund financed by European Cup income. As a corollary, the lower divisions might be regionalised to offset costs. The SRU stressed that it is not necessarily advocating

such a move, although the Orkney issue does raise that possibility.

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Metronome pacemaker device signals start of training revolution

# Stroke of genius gives Briton head start for Atlanta

Praised among the possessions that Paul Palmer, the swimmer, packed this morning before leaving Lincoln for Atlanta is the training partner from heaven: a prototype pacemaker for the healthy, a British invention that is said to bleep to a winning rhythm and that may become as familiar a friend to joggers and cyclists the world over as the personal stereo.

None in Great Britain can match the 400 metres freestyle pace of Palmer, 21, a European silver medal-winner and one of Britain's best medal prospects in the Olympic pool in July. In the absence of company, Palmer, the former European junior champion, has been happy to play guinea pig for the Electronic Programmable Training Device, a working title that Patrick Miley, the inventor, a former Army captain who flies helicopters to and from North Sea oil rigs, is keen to replace with a more marketable name.

The micro-computer allows Ian Turner, Palmer's coach, to act as pilot on the poolside. The hand-held unit, not unlike a television remote controller, pre-programmes a sound unit that is attached to the swimmer's head and emits beeps of different frequencies to set the pace at which Palmer must rotate his arms, while telling him when he should have reached his turn in order to hit his target.

The gadgetry brings to an end the long era of the pace clock. For swimmers, who



Craig Lord takes a look at an invention designed to speed improvement of sportsmen

cannot hear a coach's instructions when in water and lose time and rhythm by looking up at clocks, the device is invaluable.

Miley, 34, a former swimmer and triathlete, started out on the path to his creation by fitting a digital watch to the side of his swimming goggles, in the fashion of a mad inventor; but his involvement with the Garo Club, near Inverurie, gave him a craving for control of the device not as swimmer but as coach. After consulting Nick Norman, an engineer friend, the programmable device was born.

The simple inventions are often the best, and the unit attracted the attention of the Grampian Enterprise Trust, which gave technical support to Miley. The device is now protected by patent.

For Palmer, the pacemaker brings home the reality of pain. "I train alone and used to swim at my own pace in races," he said, "but, at this level [world class], I have to be able to go out in races with the best — the pacemaker is teaching me what that feels like."

Indeed, Turner, who met Miley when the two took their senior coach's examinations two years ago, points to the

psychological benefit apparent in the machine, an auto-suggestion comes into play. Turner, who has taken a six-month sabbatical from his job as a physical education teacher to tutor his charge, set Palmer, for example, eight 400-metre freestyle swims, going every 4min 45sec. Palmer clocked every one in 4min 0.05sec, each time within a 0.05sec of the pace that the machine had set. "It was unnerving," Turner said.

In training in Atlanta, Palmer will be asked to swim 30 sequential sets of 100 metres, each one in 58sec, the time in which Johnny Weissmuller, in the 1920s, and Dawn Fraser, in the 1960s, held the world record. It is also the sort of pace that Kieren Perkins, of Australia, will set in defence of his 1,500 metres title. Palmer hopes to be alongside Perkins in that final.

Meanwhile, Miley, encouraged by the response of Nick Gillingham, who has also been using a prototype, has engaged a business adviser, John Deffenbaugh, to promote the product.

An agreement has been signed with the Finnish national team to test the device, but Miley said: "It would be nice to see the British team benefit first."



Palmer's pace is set by the emitter placed at the side of his head. Photograph: Michael Powell

## Curling faces test of character

POINT-TO-POINT BY CARL EVANS

**POLLY CURLING** faces a test of character if she is to retain her women's title. Regarded as a certain winner, barring a fall, at the start of the season, it has been her frequent altercations with terra firma which has now put a question mark over her chances.

None of her spills has been serious enough to put her onto the sidelines for a lengthy spell, but trainer Richard Barber was forced to put her there himself on Easter Monday after another jarring thud two days earlier.

Two doctors who carried out the compulsory check after that fall could not find enough damage to sign her off, but

they told Barber she was unfit to ride. "I was left to carry the can and act as referee," Barber said yesterday.

An unsatisfactory situation was made worse when he saddled three winners, two of which would have been Curling's rides. Victories elsewhere for Alison Dare and Pip Jones means the champion is now only third in the championship.

Curling was left feeling blue, which is at present the colour of her body, the main problem being a bruised ribcage.

Due to ride at the Portman meeting today, when she had winning chances on the Bar-

ber-trained Bert With Baker and Bill Smith's Qannahs, Curling reluctantly decided yesterday to delay her comeback. However, although the champion is down, it would be unwise to count her out.

TODAY'S MEETINGS: Bedwyn with Whinny 10 (0.5) 1st 10-11. 2nd 11-12. 3rd 12-13. Bradstock Brookside Park 10 (1.1) 1st 11-12. 2nd 12-13. Cheltenham, Ascot 10 (1.1) 1st 11-12. 2nd 12-13. Gloucester 10 (1.1) 1st 11-12. 2nd 12-13. Newmarket 10 (1.1) 1st 11-12. 2nd 12-13. 2m 2nd. Cottenham 10 (1.1) 1st 11-12. 2nd 12-13. 3m 2nd. Colwick 10 (1.1) 1st 11-12. 2nd 12-13. 4m 2nd. Lincs 10 (1.1) 1st 11-12. 2nd 12-13. 5m 2nd. Worcester 10 (1.1) 1st 11-12. 2nd 12-13. 6m 2nd. York 10 (1.1) 1st 11-12. 2nd 12-13. 7m 2nd. 8m 2nd. 9m 2nd. 10m 2nd. 11m 2nd. 12m 2nd. 13m 2nd. 14m 2nd. 15m 2nd. 16m 2nd. 17m 2nd. 18m 2nd. 19m 2nd. 20m 2nd. 21m 2nd. 22m 2nd. 23m 2nd. 24m 2nd. 25m 2nd. 26m 2nd. 27m 2nd. 28m 2nd. 29m 2nd. 30m 2nd. 31m 2nd. 32m 2nd. 33m 2nd. 34m 2nd. 35m 2nd. 36m 2nd. 37m 2nd. 38m 2nd. 39m 2nd. 40m 2nd. 41m 2nd. 42m 2nd. 43m 2nd. 44m 2nd. 45m 2nd. 46m 2nd. 47m 2nd. 48m 2nd. 49m 2nd. 50m 2nd. 51m 2nd. 52m 2nd. 53m 2nd. 54m 2nd. 55m 2nd. 56m 2nd. 57m 2nd. 58m 2nd. 59m 2nd. 60m 2nd. 61m 2nd. 62m 2nd. 63m 2nd. 64m 2nd. 65m 2nd. 66m 2nd. 67m 2nd. 68m 2nd. 69m 2nd. 70m 2nd. 71m 2nd. 72m 2nd. 73m 2nd. 74m 2nd. 75m 2nd. 76m 2nd. 77m 2nd. 78m 2nd. 79m 2nd. 80m 2nd. 81m 2nd. 82m 2nd. 83m 2nd. 84m 2nd. 85m 2nd. 86m 2nd. 87m 2nd. 88m 2nd. 89m 2nd. 90m 2nd. 91m 2nd. 92m 2nd. 93m 2nd. 94m 2nd. 95m 2nd. 96m 2nd. 97m 2nd. 98m 2nd. 99m 2nd. 100m 2nd. 101m 2nd. 102m 2nd. 103m 2nd. 104m 2nd. 105m 2nd. 106m 2nd. 107m 2nd. 108m 2nd. 109m 2nd. 110m 2nd. 111m 2nd. 112m 2nd. 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Leeds

Saturday portrait: Ray Wilkins, by Oliver Holt

ILLUSTRATION BY STEVE MARTIN

# Cultured ambassador with vision to pass anything but the buck

It was hard having Ray Wilkins as your hero in the early 1980s. Bryan Robson worshippers boxed you in on every side at Old Trafford, pounding away at you with the same relentlessness as their idol's surging runs and thumping headers, ridiculing Wilkins's more cerebral approach, ignoring his vision, his elegance and his touch, and grinding you down by groaning every time that he played a ball square.

Pretty soon, someone had nicknamed him "The Crab", because he went sideways so often, and Tommy Docherty, who made a career out of being an ex-Manchester United manager, jumped on the bandwagon and slapped on a bit of fresh paint. "He can't run, he can't tackle, and he can't head the ball," Docherty said. "How can people call him a world-class player? The only time he goes forward is to toss the coin."

The angst reached its apogee in 1982, when Wilkins shattered his cheekbone in the twelfth minute of a 2-2 Milk Cup draw between United and Bournemouth at Dean Court. By the time that he was fit again, he had lost the captaincy of club and country to Robson, and found Remy Moses occupying his central midfield role at Old Trafford. It took him a long time to fight his way back in.

Those days seem a long, long way away now, as Ray Wilkins, player-manager of Queens Park Rangers, prepares for the game against Coventry City, his relegation rivals, at Highfield Road today that could seal his club's demotion to the Endsleigh Insurance League or secure their place in the FA Carling Premiership. They seem distant, those days, and yet, as Wilkins squares up to adversity again, the memories are particularly pertinent.

In the interim, you see, the period between leaving United for AC Milan in a £1.5 million deal in 1984 and the time, earlier this season, when things started to go wrong at Loftus Road, Wilkins came steadily back into fashion. His label suddenly changed from "The Crab" to "cultured midfield player", a refreshing change from the archetypal up-and-at-'em

brawler so beloved of the English game.

Things went well in Italy and, later, in Glasgow with Rangers, and, by the time that he started playing for Queens Park Rangers, in 1989, was being held up as a paragon of footballing virtue. So, by the time that he became manager at Loftus Road, 18 months ago, people had got used to seeing Wilkins as a gentle man easing along on the crest of his talent.

He was unfailingly courteous and polite, an articulate, pithy, television pundit, part of Terry Venables's England revolution as coach to the under-21 team, a credit to the game in every way. They got used to this image, they saw the results going badly at Queens Park Rangers and said that he was

**'A lot of people who have no affinity with Queens Park Rangers will be rooting for them this afternoon'**

just "too nice" to succeed as a manager. They forgot about those days at Manchester United.

Ron Atkinson has not forgotten, though. He inherited Wilkins when he took over at Old Trafford in 1981 and fate has hurled them back together. Atkinson, who denies that it was he who dubbed Wilkins "The Crab", is the Coventry manager. His voice sounded tight with tension on the telephone yesterday. He knows that the man who was once his captain and now his opponent is no soft touch.

"The first game I was in charge at United, we were playing Nottingham Forest," he said. "The lad did not have the best of games that day but he went up in my estimation. Things weren't coming off for him and the fans started to give him a bit of a dig, but he kept looking for the ball more and more and more."

"The less effective he was, the more he wanted the ball. He had

bottle even when things were not going well. He has got a hard side to him. If somebody does not do something he wants them to, I would imagine they would find out about it fairly quickly."

Wilkins has adopted the same approach as a manager. The worse things have got, the more he has stood up and heaped the blame towards himself. He has admitted that he has made bad buys with the £6 million from the sale of Les Ferdinand. Ned Zelic and Simon Osborn have come and gone without making an impression. Mark Hateley has been dogged by injury. Wilkins himself has played in the past two games and looked a class above the rest, but he draws the line at passing the buck.

Even when his team were denied two vital extra points last month when Eric Cantona scored an equaliser for United deep into injury time at Loftus Road, Wilkins refused to gripe. He entered the press room afterwards all smiles, where many managers would not have turned up at all, answered all the questions with good humour and left.

Through it all, though, he has never doubted his own ability. "I have got this thing," he said yesterday, "that, if you once start doubting yourself, there are so many people out there who are going to doubt you anyway that you will not have a prayer. I firmly believe in what I have done and that belief has been very important to me. Even in the bad times, you learn something from them and from the people around you."

Wilkins, who will be 40 in September, began his career at Chelsea in 1973, labouring under the nickname, Butch, which was bestowed on him by his father, also a professional footballer. Butch Wilkins was 18 when Chelsea made him their youngest-ever captain and Don Revie took him on an England tour of South America, where he played alongside men like Mick Channon.

United paid £25,000 for him in 1979. He scored a spectacular goal in the 2-2 FA Cup Final draw with Brighton and Hove Albion in 1983 and then, as all Manchester feared



that Robson would leave for Italy, Wilkins was sold instead. AC Milan paid £1.5 million for him, making him the most expensive English player to move abroad.

The Mexico World Cup in 1986 was a truncated failure. Four minutes after Robson had been led away from the group game against Morocco in Monterrey with a dislocated shoulder, Wilkins was sent off for throwing the ball at the referee, the first time an England

player had been dismissed in a World Cup finals match.

He left AC Milan in 1987 and, after a brief spell at Paris Saint-Germain, arrived in Scotland to join Rangers before returning to England. Italy had honed his passing skills even more, made his awareness even greater and, at last, he was accorded the respect that he deserved. His critics melted quietly into the background and everyone was an admirer.

"It is strange the way things have turned," Wilkins said. "I used to get criticised for playing square balls and yet you watch games like Liverpool and Newcastle the other night, and people are talking about how they strung 25 passes together before that goal, or that goal. Now 15 of those will have gone sideways and backwards, but they have kept the ball and that has always been my philosophy."

He must have been doing something right. He won 84 caps for England (only five men have won more since the Second World War) and was appointed MBE. He is respected by press, public and peers alike. A lot of people who have absolutely no affinity with Queens Park Rangers will be rooting for them this afternoon. It is still hard having Wilkins as a hero, but he is now just as worthy of our admiration as ever he was.

## THE TIMES MATCH-BY-MATCH GUIDE TO THE PREMIERSHIP THIS WEEKEND

**NEWCASTLE UNITED v LEEDS**

Long faces at Stamford Bridge, where Chelsea have not won for more than two months, and even longer faces at Elland Road, where Howard Wilkinson is hanging on to his job, and sandy, by the width of a brain cell, something which many Leeds supporters do not want to hear. The public utilisation is part of any football environment, but Wilko's treatment seems particularly harsh, even if he should perhaps lighten up a shade. Probably more doom and gloom at the Bridge today. Woe, woe ...

LAST SEASON: Chelsea 0 Leeds United 2.

TEN-YEAR RECORD: —, —, 1-0, —, 1-2, 0-1, 1-0, 1-1, 0-3.

**CHELSEA (from): K Hitchcock, M Dunphy, D Lee, A Myers, D Petrescu, D Wise, R Gullit, J Spencer, S Minto, M Hughes, P Funkin, C Burley, E Johnson, G Peacock, D Kharine.**

**LEEDS UNITED (from): J Lutic, I Radice, D Wetherall, C Palmer, G Kelly, A Gray, J Blunt, G McAllister, G Spence, D Deane, T Bröll, I Harte, N Worthington, J Pemberton, M Jackson, M Beaveney.**

**COVENTRY v QUEENS PARK RANGERS**

Impossible to overstate the importance of the game, definitely one of those in the extremely competitive category. For the winners, a chance of salvation; for the losers, the pill beckons; a draw, and they could both be knackered. Rangers must be favoured with one win in five matches, but Coventry's bulldog spirit should not be underestimated. Sheringham has recovered from a fractured cheekbone and will probably play in a protective mask and should be OK as long as he avoids laughing.

LAST SEASON: Coventry 0 Queens Park Rangers 1.

TEN-YEAR RECORD: 2-1, 4-1, 0-0, 0-3, 1-1, 2-2, 0-1, 0-1, 0-1.

**COVENTRY CITY (from): S Goranson, A Pilkington, M Hall, L Denton, R Shaw, D Remond, P Wiggin, K Richardson, P Teller, R Boden, E Jeffer, D Dublin, N Whelan, P Nolloway, J Salako, G Strachan, J Flanagan.**

**QUEENS PARK RANGERS (from): J Sommerville, D Beresford, S Yates, A McDonald, R Brereton, A Impini, J Holloway, T Sinclair, S Barker, K Galien, D Dichter, G Goodridge, M Brazier, M Hatfield, A Roberts.**

### MANCHESTER CITY v SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY

City have peaked to perfection, only one defeat in 10 matches, all in reparation of a disastrous opening fixture. The new boss, Alan Ball, bequeathed City bosses, seems to be rising an octave a minute, upsetting most of the local canine population, and the smugness from neighbouring Old Trafford is almost unbearable. Wednesday play on an increasingly uneven pitch, and could prove easy pickings were not City so clueless. At least David Pleat, van or losse, usually manages to retain a sensible, dignified stance.

LAST SEASON: Manchester City 1 Sheffield Wednesday 2.

TEN-YEAR RECORD: 1-3, 1-0, —, —, 2-1, —, 0-1, 1-2, 1-3, 2-0.

**MIDDLEBROUGH v WIMBLEDON**

Middlesbrough are on a roll. After enduring a 10-match sequence without a win, they have now won seven in a row, and are undefeated, even if Juninho and Branco, their exceedingly well-paid Brazilians, are not exactly exhibiting too much South American flair at the moment. Wimbledon are almost east from the centre of England and may still be errors to antagonise anyone, and everyone need assess. Good job, the Premiership just would not be the same without Joe Kinnear's Selhurst Park brace.

LAST SEASON: No fixture.

TEN-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, —, —, 1-0, —, —, 2-0, —.

**MIDDLEBROUGH (from): A Miller, N Cox, N Pearson, S Vickery, P Whelan, G Pritchard, G Ross, N Cleghorn, S Long, D Doherty, U Miller, M Keayashvili, M Brown, M Phillips, A Kamaghian, M Mergerson.**

**WIMBLEDON (from): S Sutcliffe, K Cunningham, A Knittle, C Penn, N Ardley, A Pearce, A Reeves, R Earle, V Jones, E Etkou, D Holdsworth, A Clarke, J Goodman, J Eusebi, M Gayle, S Castledine, P Fier, M Harford.**

### SOUTHAMPTON v MANCHESTER UNITED

Chalk and cheese confrontation at The Dell, with Southampton fast disappearing down the Premiership plughole and United presenting themselves at the top. Dave Memmington, Southampton's George Best, is the latest to fall into the abyss, as would like of the Saints players who have Tyneside connections. Main problem for Memmington is whether to retain the eccentric Grobbelaar in goal or bring back the marginally more reliable Beasant. Either way, United look much too strong to stay up here.

LAST SEASON: Southampton 2 Manchester United 2.

TEN-YEAR RECORD: 1-0, 1-1, 2-2, 2-0, 0-2, 1-1, 0-1, 1-3, 2-2.

**SOUTHAMPTON (from): B Grobbelaar, D Beasant, J Dodd, A Nelson, S Charlton, K Mounkayla, R Hall, B Venison, J Magilton, M Le Tissier, T Wellington, N Steffan, N Heaney, G Wilson, C Venner, P Tedesco.**

**MANCHESTER UNITED (from): G McNeil, D Beckett, R Keane, N Butt, S Scholes, R Giggs, E Cantona, A Cole, B McCleary, P Scholz, P Parker, A Cottee.**

### WEST HAM v BOLTON

Five wins in nine matches have given Bolton a sniff of a chance of avoiding the drop, when previously there was none. Another three-pointer, against a side who have long since preserved their Premier status, could be on the brink of one of the greatest escapes in the history of greatest escapes. Little to motivate West Ham, though Danis should probably now realise that there is more to English football than posing aplenty, fancy tricks and rolled-down socks.

LAST SEASON: No fixture.

TEN-YEAR RECORD: 0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 0-0, 0-0.

**WEST HAM UNITED (from): L Milicic, T Bracken, J Dickie, S Bilo, M Reiper, I Bishop, M Hughes, R Slater, D Williamson, K Rowland, Dowsie, A Coffey, D Moncur, I Sealey, A Martin.**

**BOLTON (from): G Ward, J Phillips, G Bergson, S Currie, C Ferguson, D Coleman, J Thompson, S Sagar, A Stubbs, J McGinlay, N Blake, M Paulstean, S Green, S Taylor, F de Freitas, A Davison.**

### MONDAY

#### ARSENAL v TOTTENHAM

With a possible place in Europe at stake for the visitors, north London's fierce-spirited outpouring of desire and passion takes on added significance. Not that Bruce Rioch, the argumentative manager, has been liked or liked up, Arsenal should be all the more formidable. Sheringham plays today, despite popping into an advertising hoarding yesterday and missing seven silly in a cut above the right-hand corner. Holding did not survive; it is now more than mere art.

LAST SEASON: Arsenal 1 Tottenham Hotspur 1.

TEN-YEAR RECORD: 0-0, 0-1, 2-0, 1-0, 0-0, 2-0, 1-1, 1-1.

**ARSENAL (from): D Seaman, M Keown, A Lehmann, S Merson, D Cotterill, P Merson, N Whitehead, J Bergkamp, M Wright, J Hartson, Steve Bould.**

**TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (from): Walker, D Austin, J Edinburgh, G Mabbutt, C Wilson, R Fox, A Sinton, E Sharpenay, C Amoruso, S Nethercott, R Rosenthal, S Slade, C Day, D Howlett.**

### WHEN TO WATCH ON TELEVISION

Event	Date
10.45pm BBC 1 Match of the Day (highlights)	14.4.96
12.00 noon Sky Sports Goals on Sunday	14.4.96
3.30pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Super Sunday Newcastle v Aston Villa (live)	14.4.96
7.00pm Sky Sports Ford Escort Monday Night Football Arsenal v Tottenham (live)	14.4.96

Compiled by Russell Keay

**TOMORROW**

**NEWCASTLE v ASTON VILLA**

Judging by the despair with lunge on the faces of many Newcastle supporters at Ellwood Park on Monday night, after their heroes had beaten 2-1 by Blackburn, there is little hope for Old Trafford. Never have so many looked so suicidal; rarely can there have been such a pitiful sight in reaction to sporting defeat. They will be back at St James' Park tomorrow, full of hope, but Villa are ideal opponents to have as visitors. They will be a very lively outfit, and could all end in tears. Again.

LAST SEASON: Newcastle 1-0 Aston Villa 1.

TEN-YEAR RECORD: 2-2, 2-1, —, —, 1-0, 0-1, 0-1, 0-1, 0-1, 0-1, 0-1, 0-1, 0-1.

**NEWCASTLE UNITED (from): S Hislop, G Watson, J Beresford, D Peacock, P Allen, R Lee, D Bell, P Beardmore, D Gills, P Asprilla, S Dicks, J Gilks, S Gibson, J Hart, J Hobson, J Morrison, J Quinn, J Sheehan, J Smith, J Stewart, J Walker, J Williams, J Young, J Zelalem.**

**ASTON VILLA (from): M Draper, A Wright, P McGrath, I Taylor, L Elphick, M O'Driscoll, A Townsend, T Johnson, D Yorke, S Milne, S Subasic (sub); (from): M Dakos, J Joschim, L Hendrie, S Staunton, R Schmeichel.**

**NEXT WEEK'S FIXTURES**

**Everton v Liverpool (8.00)**

**Aston Villa v West Ham (7.45)**

**Blackburn v Wimbledon (7.45)**

**Manchester United v Leeds (8.0)**

**Newcastle v Southampton (7.45)**

**Nottingham Forest v Coventry (7.45)**

**Sheffield Wednesday v Chelsea (7.45)**

### HOW THEY STAND

	P	Pts	Goal diff	Recent form
1 Manchester Utd	34	73	+31	DWWWW
2 Newcastle	33	67	+28	VLLWL
3 Liverpool	34	65	+35	VLLWL
4 Aston Villa	34	62	+20	WLDDWW
5 Arsenal	34	57	+16	WLWLW
6 Tottenham	34	56	+10	WLWLW
7 Everton	35	54	+16	DLWWL
8 Notts Forest	33	53	+2	DWWLN
9 Blackburn	34	51	+8	VWWLW
10 West Ham	34	48	-7	WLWDL
11 Chelsea	34	45	0	DLDDE
12 Middlesbrough	35	43	-10	DDWWL
13 Leeds	33	42	-10	DLWLL
14 Sheffield Wed	34	38	-9	VWWLW
15 Wimbledon	34	37	-13	LWWWD
16 Southampton	34	31	-14	VLLWL
17 Manchester City	35	31	-27	

# Leeds the poorer without Silver's community spirit

**W**ith the departure from Leeds United of Leslie Silver, the club has lost a chairman and a visionary. Football in general has lost another of those self-made millionaires who come into the game, determined to raise a club by its bootstraps, and give much of their time, their personality and eventually their health.

The Leslie Silvers of this world are a dying breed because, at the very top, the clubs now have turnovers on a par with large corporations, and even men who have made millions in their own lifetime can not keep pace with the regeneration required, or tolerate the vindictiveness that comes when a season fails away.

Silver has resigned from the board, but left his shares at its disposal, on doctor's orders. He suffered a heart attack some years ago, shortly after the paint-manufacturing company he built from nothing into a £50 million enterprise was gutted by fire. More recently, his home had been entered and he and his wife bound by thieves. But, though 71, he is a tough individual, one whose family had been raised in the East End of London, where his father was in the rag trade and an uncle who introduced him to the pleasures of watching Arsenal kept a market stall.

Nevertheless, the sheer nastiness of Leeds's so-called supporters, something he had tackled with great distinction

over a decade ago, will not have encouraged him to stay. When they called for the head of his chosen manager, Howard Wilkinson, after the club's failure at Wembley in the Coca-Cola Cup final last month, they also sniped at Silver; and now Wilkinson is to rebuild the team together with the acting chairman, Bill Fotherby, the club's managing director.

Silver gave his time for 14 years as chairman and risked considerable capital after being talked onto the board by the outgoing chairman, the late Manny Cussins, who had told him: "It won't cost you a thing."

In reality, Silver had to guarantee the club millions. "I could afford it," he once told

me, "through luck and endeavour in my business. It was money I had earned. But my family constantly asked why I bothered. It was because I had been a fan from the day I walked into Elland Road after being demobbed in 1945."

He was then a supporter on the terraces, a young man gambling his RAF gratuity and money loaned from members of the family on his embryonic business. Half of the firm's capital was his when

redrawing the culture of Leeds United and redrafting responsibility for the club in the community will always be his legacy. For, apart from putting up money to buy the club out of the old second division, Silver had broken the antagonisms that existed between the club and the police, and also the local council. He redesigned the board into seven shareholding directors, plus three directors from the council, to which he sold the ground, and one supporters' club member.

What he then needed was a manager of the team who was broadminded enough and business-minded enough to help to rebuild the club. He never failed to remind those who criticise Wilkinson that

when he looked into the eyes of this, the third football manager to work for him, he found for the first time someone who could have managed in any area of any business Silver had known. Such acumen was vital, given that Silver had the nerve and the pocket to withstand a £3 million loss in 1990, the year Leeds rose to the first division, and two years before they became champions.

It seems incongruous now that his detractors are suggesting he is disillusioned with the club, and will sell his shares when the market value is right. He says not: "I have no intention of selling and no need to sell."

Perhaps, in modern football, you only get away with selling when you are winning.

For at Manchester United, where four directors, including Martin Edwards, the chairman, sold shares worth £7.4 million at the beginning of this month, one hears no complaints. However, the strength of a football club will always be the bond between the chairman and manager. Silver, having said he would not part with Wilkinson even for the England job, would never be disloyal enough to say if he felt his manager had now lost the plot, and would perhaps not have the heart to look into the eyes of new candidates and start again.

Perhaps, in any case, Silver has earned the right to assume that his decade and a half of service to the club runs far deeper than a coat of paint.

## Aldridge's day of joy spells gloom for King

By PETER BALL

JOHN ALDRIDGE had double cause for celebration yesterday: On the day that Mick McCarthy, the Ireland manager, gave youth its head, Aldridge, the veteran Tranmere Rovers forward both held his place in the Ireland squad and was appointed player-manager of Tranmere Rovers in succession to John King.

"Ideally, I would have liked the circumstances in which I have taken over to have been better, but that's football," Aldridge, 37, said. "I intend to go on playing for at least the next two seasons."

There will, however, be sympathy for King, the most successful manager in the club's history, who has paid the penalty for Tranmere's first poor season since he took over for a second time in 1987.



Aldridge: manager's role

In his nine years in charge, he took Tranmere from the fourth division to the brink of the top division, being involved in play-offs on three occasions, without managing to take the final step up. King has offered a consultancy with the club.

"It takes a lot of taking in, but you have to be big enough in football," King said. "There is a lot of pride in what I have done, but, obviously, lack of finance has been something of a handicap."

Meanwhile, although McCarthy has begun to make changes, leaving out seven of the players from the squad selected to face Russia last month, Aldridge has retained his place for the game against the Czech Republic in Prague on April 24.

Apart from Roy Keane, who

was overlooked in anticipation of a one-match ban after his red card in the match against Russia, the most notable omission is John Sheridan. Alan Kernaghan, Chris Morris, Mick Milligan, Tommy Coyne and Eddie McGoldrick are also left out as McCarthy gives the squad a younger look.

In their places, Kenny Cunningham, the uncapped Wimbeldon defender, Gareth Farrelly, of Aston Villa, and Keith O'Neill, of Norwich City, are promoted from the under-21 squad. With attacking players at a premium for Ireland, the choice of O'Neill will generate most excitement.

"I felt it was the right time to bring in youngsters like Farrelly and O'Neill," McCarthy said.

While Aldridge keeps his international hopes alive, there was mixed fortune for Eric Cantona and Gary Pallister. Although Cantona has been named footballer of the year, his hopes of a place in the France squad for the European championship finals are still looking thin.

"He is in great form," Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, conceded yesterday, "but in England, Eric profits from playing to a system that suits him. I am not prepared to change our style."

There was better news for Pallister, and thus for Terry Venables, the England coach, whose defensive options have been getting narrower. Pallister could make an unexpectedly early return to Manchester United's team next week. "He trained yesterday and today and has had no reaction," Ferguson said. "I'm not taking him to Southampton, but he can train this weekend, and if he is OK we may arrange a practice game for him on Monday."

Newcastle United have no such comfort, and they received another blow yesterday when Keith Gillespie was taken to hospital after twisting an ankle in training.

IRELAND SQUAD: A Kelly (Shelfield United), P. Bonner (Coleraine), S. Green (Blackburn Rovers), J. Keane (Blackburn Rovers), G. Kelly (Luton United), T. Quinn (Cheltenham), S. Quinn (Walsall), P. Quinn (Aston Villa), D. Irwin (Manchester United), L. Doherty (Coventry City), J. Babbs (Leeds United), J. Houghton (Crystal Palace), A. Townsend (Aston Villa), J. McAuley (Liverpool), A. McLoughlin (Portsmouth), G. Fahey (Aston Villa), M. Kavanagh (Walsall), N. Quinn (Birmingham City), C. Aldridge (Tranmere Rovers), A. Cascarino (Middlesbrough), K. O'Neill (Norwich City)

## Evans goes up in bid for the top

By DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

PAUL EVANS used to think that the advice given to him by Charlie Spedding, the last Briton to win an Olympic marathon medal, was "a load of baloney", but not any more. "I thought he was winding me up," Evans said. Taking notice of Spedding now, Evans begins his Flora London Marathon today.

The marathon is tomorrow week, but Evans, the runner-up in the New York City Marathon last November, believes that it will be a significant step towards a top-three position in London if he can beat his fellow Britons in the Bupa road race over five kilometres in Portsmouth this afternoon. Eamonn Martin, the 1993 London Marathon champion looking for a second win next weekend, is among the opposition today.

"Forty-two kilometres [26 miles] is very different from five kilometres, but it is a mental thing for me," Evans said. "It is important I beat the British boys. Maybe the others do not care, because it is only five kilometres, but it is important psychologically for me."

"When I started running marathons, I asked Charlie Spedding for advice and he seemed to be more

concerned about the mental aspect than the physical one. He said that the most important thing was to stand on the start line believing in yourself."

"I used to think, if you were fit, that was enough. When I read his letter, I thought, 'What a load of baloney,' but, as I have got older, the more I have come to realise how right he was. After all, he has run 2hr 08min and I have not."

The fact that Evans has not broken 2hr 10min clearly disturbs him. Asked what he meant when he said that he was looking for a "good" London, Evans fifth twice, said: "a fast time," before correcting himself to "winning it". In possibly the strongest field yet for a London Marathon, Evans is an outsider.

However, his preparation could not have gone better. For the first time, he has devoted a lengthy spell to altitude training. He returned last Saturday from 3½ weeks of running at 6,000 feet in South Africa, taking advice from Khalid Skah, the Olympic 10,000 metres champion. Skah told Evans to expect to feel tired until the middle of next week and, though he has felt sluggish this week, he

hopes to have recovered sufficiently to "put one over on my opponents who are running in the London Marathon".

Evans was convinced that he should try altitude training after looking at the results of the London Marathon last year. He noted that the four men ahead of him all trained at altitude or in warm weather or both. Contrast that with Evans, who spent the winter "training in two tracksuits and freezing to death" from his home in Lowestoft.

While Martin, Gary Staines and Andrew Pearson represent formidable British opposition for Evans today, the international challenge may prove even tougher. The field includes Paulo Guerra, the European cross country champion, from Portugal, and Philip Mosina, twice world junior cross country champion, from Kenya.

In the women's race, Liz McColgan will be looking for a fast time. "A week before winning the 1991 New York Marathon, I set a world five kilometres record in Chicago [14min 57sec]," she said. "The Portsmouth race could not have come at a better time."

Evans goes up in bid for the top

## European success would give Hall triple triumph

FROM RICHARD EATON IN HERNING

DARREN HALL, who qualified for the Olympic Games 12 days ago, and extended his record of English national singles titles to eight last week, has a chance of third important triumph in three weeks by winning a medal at the European badminton championships, which start here in Denmark today. Hall, 30, from Essex, has been playing so well that his hopes of regaining the title that he captured eight years ago cannot entirely be ruled out.

One of the secrets of Hall's revival in the evening of his career has been an ability to remain injury-free, and he will go into the men's singles here as the No 3 seed, having twice recently taken Poul-Erik Hoyer, the defending champion and No 1 seed,

from his home in Lowestoft. In the women's race, Liz McColgan will be looking for a fast time. "A week before winning the 1991 New York Marathon, I set a world five kilometres record in Chicago [14min 57sec]," she said. "The Portsmouth race could not have come at a better time."

Beating Hoyer, however, will be extremely difficult. The elegant left-

hander confounded most expectations by retaining the all-England title last month in an exceptional field, and he will be seeded to win the silver medal in Atlanta. If Hoyer wins again a week today, it will complete a hat-trick of European men's singles titles.

Denmark have such a powerful squad that they are not only favourites to retain the team title from Sweden over the next three days but also could become the first country to win all six European gold medals. England, at best, look capable of the team bronze, but, in the mixed doubles, the individual events, which start on Tuesday, Simon Archer and Julie Bradbury are favourites to win gold. Bradbury could, in fact, win two European titles because she and Joanne Wright are the No 2 seeds in the women's doubles.

The withdrawal of Lim Xiaoqiang, the Chinese-born Swede, the No 1 seed and title-holder in the women's singles, has enabled Anne Gibson to become the first Scot to gain a seeding in this event. She is No 8.

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# SPORT

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FOOTBALL 47

ALDRIDGE PULLS  
ON MANAGER'S  
HAT AT TRANMERE

Champion fails to defend his Masters title beyond the halfway stage

## Crenshaw suffers cruellest cut

FROM JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN AUGUSTA

SAM TORRANCE'S involvement in the sixth Masters ended just before lunch here yesterday when he added a much-improved 71 to his first-round 80 for a 36-hole total of 151. Torrance was not alone on this score, seven over par and certain to miss the halfway cut. An hour later came the sad sight of Ben Crenshaw, the defending champion, walking up the 18th on the site of his emotional triumph last year.

Then he finished with a five and he did so again this year. But last year it was good enough to give him a one-stroke victory over Davis Love III, whereas this year all that remained was for him to head to the clubhouse and kick his heels for two days before he could perform the ceremonial role of putting the green jacket on the shoulders of the winner this year and congratulating him in front of millions of television viewers. Crenshaw's rounds were 77 and 74.

"Not to play your best golf here after winning is very, very disappointing," Crenshaw said. "I played some really good holes and some very poor ones. As champion you are expected to do all you can but the ball has got to run for you. I am going to be an innocent bystander for the next couple of days."

Torrance's first round was what did the damage that was ultimately to prevent him playing the last two rounds for the first time in his three appearances in this event. "After that I wanted to go into a corner, have a beer and talk," Torrance said. "But my Dad told me to get out on the practice ground and I am glad I did."

Torrance said the wind was "wicked". It got up overnight to turn a course that Greg Norman and Phil Mickelson had flattened, with a 63 and 65 respectively on Thursday, a day when 32 of the 93 competing golfers broke par, into one that bared its teeth yesterday. The 12th proved a terror. Crenshaw had a six there after a gust of wind got up just as he hit his tee shot and blew it 30 yards left.

The wind made both the par fives on the homeward half much more difficult and even as early as luncheon it became clear that there would be no rounds containing nine birdies, as Norman had the previous day. Almost without exception the early finishers reeled off the course grateful to



Lyle tracks the progress of his tee shot at the 4th hole during his second round of 74 in the Masters at Augusta yesterday. Photograph: Stephen Munday/Allsport

have scored only a few strokes more than they had in the first round.

Ian Baker-Finch went from a 78 to a 79, Jerry Courville from 78 to 82, Steve Elkington, the USPGA champion, from 78 to 82. One exception to the general rule was Fred Couples who improved from a 78, a round in which he and Gordon Sherry, his playing partner, were throwing bogeys at one another, to a 68 thanks to seven birdies. Another was Corey Pavin, the US Open champion, who improved from a 75 to a 66.

"Only the greens are a problem," Contino Rocca said, after a 75 for a nine-over par total of 153, just before he walked hand in hand with his little daughter up the hill from the 18th green to the clubhouse. "They are not flat," Rocca will fly home to Italy, climb in his car and drive to Cannes and in his own words, "hope to play four rounds" in

the tournament next week. In a couple of weeks the Italian Open will be played at Bergamo, his home club. How will the greens be there? "They will be fast," Rocca promised, "but they will be a little bit more flat than here."

Tiger Woods seemed almost certain to miss the cut, just as Sherry, his friend and fellow amateur, had. Woods, playing

### SCORES FROM AUGUSTA

United States unless stated, par 72  
141: C Pavin 75 65  
148: Furyk 75 70, B Langer (Ger) 75 70,  
T Lehman 75 70  
146: F Couples 78 68; L Mize 75 71  
147: T涉野 75 72, S Lyle 75 74  
150: H Lancaster 75 74, T Woods 75 75  
151: S Torrance (GB) 80 71, B Crenshaw  
77 74; S Higash (Japan) 76 75, E  
Doughtery 78 75, K Trippet 76 75  
152: J Heron 76 75; K Perry 75 77, T  
Nale 75 77  
153: W Austin 79 74, D Edwards 79 74; C  
Pocca (It) 78 75, B Bryant 78 75  
154: S Elkington (Aus) 76 79, B  
Henninger 76 79; G Sherry (GB) 78 77,  
157: I Baker-Finch (Aus) 78 79.  
157: I Baker-Finch (Aus) 78 79.

with Tom Watson, a predecessor at Stanford University, had another 75, again highlighted by enormous hitting and regular misjudgments of distances. On the 10th, for example, Woods hit a massive drive, one that threatened to run into the finger-shaped bunker that is meant to act as a penalty for weak second shots. It was a drive approach-

ing 375 yards and was 50 yards past Watson's.

But whereas Watson got his par, Woods' second shot was pulled left and short and then rolled back down the slope from the front of the green. He chipped close but was unable to hole the putt. He had taken four shots to cover 125 yards; the name of the professional game is to learn how to cover

those distances in two strokes. One shot better off than Woods, but still in danger, was Sandy Lyle, who added a 74 to his 75 in the first round for a five-over par total of 149.

As the day wore on there was no lessening of admiration for Norman's 63. It was one of the great championship rounds, one that he considered to be almost as good as his 63 at Turnberry in the second round of the 1986 Open and the last one was Ray Floyd in 1976. "You have to keep the momentum going somehow," Norman said in the glowing aftermath of his round. "You know you're not going to shoot three more 63s, so you try not to let it get away from you and get too excited about it."

Mickelson's and then Norman's rounds brought the opening day to a crescendo. Days like that are rare at major championships and all the more special for being so.

Sherry departs, page 43

are not so great if the clubs can be granted some measure of graduated independence which will allow them to run their businesses successfully in the new era.

That the clubs are in deadly earnest is illustrated by their search for a sponsor who can deal on their behalf with television companies: their representatives have contacted both Vernon Pugh, chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union and also of the IRFU, and Louis Luyt, president of the South African Rugby Football Union, since IRFU regulations permit only governing bodies to negotiate TV rights.

An IRFU statement yesterday confirmed an approach to Pugh from the clubs but said that a meeting could be set up "only with the consent and in the presence of representatives of the RFU. If the IRFU is requested to act as a mediator or to assist in discussions relating to a dispute, it would be prepared to do so, but only with the consent of, and on terms acceptable to, that union. The IRFU can provide the services of its acting secretary, Bob Weighill [a former secretary to the RFU] or any of its officials."

Bristol yesterday confirmed that Gareth Archer would be leaving them to join Newcastle next season, and launched a blistering attack on the England lock forward. David Tyler, the director of rugby, claimed that Archer had made himself unavailable for selection for today's crucial meeting with Leicester in the Courage Clubs Championship first division by failing to seek medical treatment for a knee injury incurred against Bath a fortnight ago, failing to train, and failing to turn up for contractual discussions with Alan Davies, the new coach, earlier this week.

## TCCB clears Malcolm over criticism of tour

DEVON MALCOLM has escaped disciplinary action over his criticism of England's team management on the recent cricket tour of South Africa. Malcolm, the Derbyshire fast bowler, was cleared after an investigation by the Test and County Cricket Board (TCCB).

In a series of articles in the *Daily Express*, Malcolm claimed that he was verbally abused by Raymond Illingworth, the England manager, and also suggested that the criticism was racially motivated.

The TCCB statement said: "Malcolm has assured the board that in those articles he did not suggest or intend to suggest that the England manager or management had used language or exhibited behaviour towards him which was of a racist nature."

New season opens, page 41

## Super League opens with scoring spree

Christopher Irvine looks at the spectacular start to summer rugby league and the problems it may pose

**T**ries, tries and tries again. In the Super League, a try is scored on average every eight minutes. The first 18 matches in the new rugby league competition have brought 183 tries — unprecedented scoring, which is trying some spectators' patience and converting others.

Before last night's game between Warrington and Halifax, matches had averaged 58 points, compared with 48 points in the first 16 games of the centenary season. The introduction of Paris Saint-Germain exaggerates the points equation, but, even subtracting the new side's 14 tries from the total try count, the figure of 169 still represents a 15 per cent increase in tries on the same stage last season.

The theory that tries equals entertainment equals more spectators is being born out by high-scoring yet competitive matches in many instances and a rise in crowds. It is the contrivance that the staunch traditional followers object to. That, and the remoulding, fancy packaging and new presentation of sport.

What Sky Television, in its cover-

age, describes as "same game, different attitude" is half-truth. In its short life, Super League has become almost a new sport, a cross between basketball, in terms of high scoring, and ice hockey, in terms of break-neck speed and the new interchange system, which allows six substitutions per side.

Fresh legs are quickening the game, while the now almost unlimited space at the play-the-ball — or play-touch-football, as it is in danger of becoming known — is an open invitation to attacking sides. With the weather still to warm up and pitches to become parched, the crumbling of defences has probably only just begun, unless improved fitness levels can bring about better defensive organisation.

St Helens, the Super League leaders, are the only one of the 12 teams to have conceded less than 20 points a game; at the bottom, Workington's defence is leaking an average of 52

points. If tries are so readily available, then the team that sorts out its defence would seem to stand the best chance of ultimate victory.

As fast and spectacular as much as the action is, an ideological debate is raging about whether it is actually rugby league. The muddled oaks are no more. Forwards no longer drive the ball up into the waiting embrace of an opposition forward. They are part of the seamless pattern, their distinction lost in the lust for speed. "Anyone even a bit slow is dead in this game," one player said.

I comment this week by Maurice Lindsay, the Rugby Football League chief executive, that players are getting better, it is not so much the case as they are going faster and, in the opinion of Garry Schofield, the most skilful player of his generation, are becoming less skilled.

Schofield, who now plays in the first

division for Huddersfield, says in *Super League Week*: "I think we [defences] ought to be no more than five metres back from the play-the-ball [the rule is ten metres], then we could find out where the players of skill are, because they would be the guys opening the defences."

Australia have tried various systems and been through the big score syndrome. I can't accept that two sets of players who are so far apart can produce anything other than the kind of rugby league we are seeing at the moment. It's all loaded in favour of the big guys, with the element of skill down-graded."

When the day comes again to play Australia, Lindsay said that a fitter Great Britain side would be able to demonstrate improved performance levels. The question then would be would they know how to defend? Sydney City's 10-4 defeat of Canterbury last week was described in Australia as the match of the decade. A defensive stranglehold is unlikely to be a feature of round four of Super League.

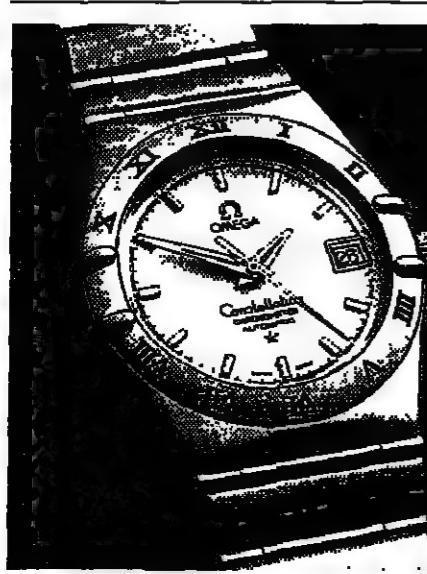
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OVERSEAS NEWS 13

# US force sails for Liberia as anarchy imperils rescue

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON AND PETER CAPELLA IN GENEVA

AN AMERICAN naval task force was heading for Liberia yesterday as a complete breakdown of law and order complicated Pentagon efforts to evacuate hundreds of Americans and other foreigners from the capital, Monrovia.

The task force is sailing from the Adriatic and will take about ten days to reach the West African coast. It consists of the *USS Guam*, an amphibious assault ship, the *USS Connolly*, a destroyer, and three support ships with 1,800 US Marines on board. "We're planning for a contingency in a worst case," said an officer.

As anarchy swept Monrovia, American troops had to repel marauders who broke into the grounds of the US Ambassador's residence. Daylight helicopter flights were suspended after at least one was attacked by rocket-propelled grenades. The Pentagon dispatched additional helicopters from US bases.

International aid agencies and the United Nations were evacuating most of their foreign staff, but leaving behind local aid workers, as the country slid further into chaos. Ruth Marshall, a spokeswoman for the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said the situation was untenable, after a series of raids on the UNHCR compound. "There is almost complete anarchy in Monrovia. There are bodies in the street. There is really wanton carnage," she said.

Another spokesman, Francis Kpatinde, said: "It feels bad to leave. But what can we do? We can't move around. We don't have anyone to speak to. All the leaders of the factions are in Monrovia, but they are just silent."

Aid agencies were unable even to estimate the numbers of killed and wounded because it was too dangerous to go on to the streets. Médecins Sans

Frontières and the International Committee of the Red Cross said that they were trying to withdraw.

The UNHCR was caring for about 120,000 refugees from Sierra Leone in Monrovia, along with another 1.2 million Liberians who had fled from fighting elsewhere in the country earlier in the conflict. A spokesman said that they last visited the refugees several days ago, when they were short of food, water, and medical care.

The refugee agency and Unicef, the UN children's fund, were leaving their 123 Liberian workers in Monrovia. A handful of foreign staff from the UN were expected to set up a crisis cell in the suburb of Riva View, which is controlled by the African Ecomog peacekeeping force.

One UN official in Geneva

said that, apart from reports of looting by the peacekeepers, most of the UN's experts were due to board a freighter in Monrovia heading for Abidjan in Senegal.

There are about 223 non-Liberian staff in the country, including 92 military observers. Most of the UN's experts have been rescued since Tuesday, including about 150

Americans and a few British,

but they were the most accessible.

US troops now have to run a gauntlet of gunfire to rescue hundreds more from refuges around the city.

Until now all evacuations

had taken place from the

embassy, a State Department

spokesman said. "Now we're

beginning to go out to points

where groups of Americans

and foreigners are located." A

substantial number of foreign-

ers were reportedly collected

from a defunct Voice of America

radio transmitter station,

and up to 100 missionaries

and their families were said to

have taken refuge at a Christian radio station.

## African peace team in Monrovia talks

BY SAM KILEY, AFRICA CORRESPONDENT

FIERCE fighting erupted yesterday around a Monrovia barracks where a breakaway faction was holed up with hundreds of hostages as a West African diplomatic delegation arrived in the Liberian capital.

As the peace team sent by President Rawlings of Ghana met Charles Taylor, the dominant warlord in Monrovia, his chief aide body denied that the fighting had broken out because Mr Taylor was bent on establishing himself as Liberia's President.

Heavy artillery and mortars pounded the sprawling barracks complex where Roosevelt Johnson and his largely Krahn tribal followers were holding at least 400 Liberians and 40 Lebanese as human shields against Mr Taylor's men — mainly descendants of freed American slaves — who have formed an alliance with the commercially powerful

Mandingo tribe. Elsewhere in the city looting continued unchecked.

A spokesman at the US Embassy organising the evacuation of foreigners said: "We are receiving calls all the time from people who want to come to Mamba Point [a beachside suburb where many embassies are based] but are unable to get there."

He said that no US military personnel had been sent on rescue missions into the town, but that the embassy security officer and guards from Mr Taylor's faction were touring "safer areas" in search of trapped foreigners.

General Johnson was accused of murder several weeks ago. But many foreign diplomats believe that Mr Taylor used the arrest warrant as a smokescreen in an attempt to impose himself as Liberia's President and end a power-sharing arrangement.

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# Mother defends fatal flight of child pilot

FROM GILES WHITTELL IN LOS ANGELES

**FRAMED** by tousled hair and a baseball cap, the smiling face of Jessica Dubroff, who died in a crash while trying to become the youngest person to pilot a plane across America, adorned almost every newspaper front page in America yesterday. As her mother defended the right of a seven-year-old to fly, aviation experts mourned a victim of "bad adult judgment".

In a tearful interview on NBC television's *Today*, Jessica Dubroff's mother, Lisa Blair Hathaway, said she had talked to her daughter in the cockpit of the plane just before she took off on Thursday from the airport at Cheyenne, Wyoming. Asked if she regretted allowing her daughter to make the flight, she said: "Oh, I'd have her do it again, in a second. You have no idea what this meant to Jess."

The crash, in which Jessica, her father and her flight instructor died soon after take-off from Cheyenne, provoked a wave of national sadness. It also prompted a federal review of the rules governing

flying by minors, and angry comment on the motives of highly ambitious parents.

"I ask anybody that questions whether Jessica should have 'gone up' to speak to somebody who loves her deeply," Mrs Hathaway said. "I guarantee they would say she should have been up there. She had a freedom which you can't get by holding her back."

Mrs Hathaway learnt of her daughter's death in Massa-

cussets, where she was to have landed her single-engined Cessna yesterday after a three-day journey.

Before flying to Cheyenne to identify the bodies of Jessica and her former husband, Lloyd Dubroff, Mrs Hathaway said her grief was tempered by knowing that, when her daughter died, she "went with her joy and her passion, and her life was in her hands". Anticipating the furore that has since erupted, Mrs Hathaway said: "I beg people to let children fly if they want to."

Within hours, however, the head of Washington's Federal Aviation Administration had ordered a review of the regulations that allowed a seven-year-old who could barely see out of the cockpit to be at the controls of an aircraft in dangerous conditions. Under American law, 16-year-olds may fly solo and children of any age may take the controls if an instructor in the co-pilot's seat believes them to be competent. Yesterday criticism in America's aviation community focused on the judgment of

Joe Reid, Jessica's veteran instructor and owner of the Cessna 177B in which she was killed.

Fellow pilots were astonished that Mr Reid, who was legally in command of the aircraft, should have taken off in worsening conditions from a high-altitude airfield. In the thin air at 6,000ft, the foot of the Rockies, the 150-horsepower Cessna would have lost 20 per cent of its take-off power, experts said.

Others speculated that ice pellets in the heavy rain falling at the time of the crash might have caused icing on the wings, drastically reducing their lift. The aircraft stalled and nose-dived after failing to climb above 400ft. A commercial flight due to take off minutes later was delayed until the storm passed.

This was a publicity stunt that went wrong because of bad adult judgment," Arthur Wolk, an aviation consultant, told NBC television. "Her mother says she was an aviator. She wasn't an aviator. She was a baby."

Jessica: "she was not a pilot, she was a baby"

## Walesa wins his pension battle

FROM REUTER  
IN WARSAW

**LECH WALESZA** was granted a pension for life yesterday for his services as a former President of Poland — paving the way for him to leave his £164-a-month shipyard electrician's job which he resumed last week.

A vote by the lower house of parliament will also mean lifetime pensions for General Wojciech Jaruzelski, the former Communist military强人, and Ryszard Kaczorowski, the last President, now in exile in London.

The net pension of former Presidents will be about £1,052 a month, the same as the present President's basic pay. Mr Walesza, 52, returned on April 4 to register for the job at the Gdansk shipyard where in 1980 he launched Solidarity, the Soviet bloc's first free trade union, which went on to topple Communist rule in 1989.

Mr Walesza is not hard up but the authorities are pressuring him to pay taxes on about \$1 million (£640,000) he received in 1989 from an American film studio, which Mr Walesza says he is not liable to pay.

Tax officials in Gdansk, Mr Walesza's Baltic coast hometown, said this week they could not establish whether he had to pay the tax demand or not and passed the decision to the Finance Ministry.

The Nobel prizewinner had made clear that once a pension was approved, he would give up his shipyard job — he repairs electric trolleys — to devote himself full-time to politics.

Mr Walesza has promised to help the debt-ridden yard to attract foreign investment.

## Freemen give in

New York: Two of the anti-government Freemen protesters held up in a Montana ranch — Ebert Stanton, 23, and his mother Agnes, 52 — surrendered to FBI agents on their 19th day under siege.

## Well tragedy

Hanoi: Three people, including a boy aged 11 and his brother, died overcome by a lack of oxygen at the bottom of a 25ft well when they climbed down trying to save a chicken that had fallen in. (AFP)

## Guru charged

Delhi: Chandraswami, a Hindu guru who counts heads of state and international celebrities among his acolytes, was charged with cheating an expatriate Indian businessman of £65,800 in 1988. (AFP)

## Tamil boats sunk

Colombo: The Sri Lankan Navy sank two Tamil Tiger boats that attacked ships in Colombo port at dawn, and two divers were killed as they swam through the northern entrance to the port.

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## Tamil boats sunk

'Imaginative' Tatyana Yeltsin tames hostile press as President's campaign gains ground

## Papa's girl charms critics

WHEN President Yeltsin announced recently that he had appointed his youngest daughter to help to run his re-election campaign, critics in the Kremlin scoffed that the old man had allowed his heart to rule his head.

As Tatyana Yeltsin recalled in a recent interview, the first response by senior officials was to try to placate her by assigning menial tasks — organising youth projects and women's groups — to keep her out of the day-to-day running of the campaign.

"It was very difficult at the start, no one took me seriously," she told the weekly magazine *Ogoniok*, adding that the Russian leader's oldest and most trusted advisers still regarded her as a child. However, six weeks after the

### MOSCOW FILE

by RICHARD BEESTON



mathematician and mother of two forced herself into the re-election team, she has earned the respect of many in the Kremlin for her quick mind and persuasive manner.

One Russian journalist who met her said that the President's daughter, until recently was employed calculating the trajectory of spaceships, was learning her new job fast.

"It was obvious that she was not a professional," he

said. "She kept referring to Mr Yeltsin as papa, but it was also clear that she is far more imaginative than most of the advisers around him and is an asset to the campaign."

One of her first initiatives was to halt the regular formal meetings between the Kremlin leader and editors of Russia's leading publications, suggesting one-to-one sessions instead. The move has contributed to the extremely pro-Yeltsin coverage in the

press, which only a few months ago was frequently hostile to his leadership.

She has been credited with attracting an increasingly wide body of supporters to her father's campaign, thanks to her broad array of contacts and the fact that she has no real political enemies.

It is too early to say whether Mr Yeltsin's favourite daughter, who has inherited her mother's homely looks but her father's stubborn character, will use her sudden fame to launch her own political career. It is highly unusual for family members of Russian leaders to become involved in politics, particularly women.

In Tatyana's case, both



Father figure: Boris Yeltsin exploits his image as a family man

## Women give lift to hopes of politicians

THE voting habits of Russian women may have a decisive effect in the forthcoming presidential elections, but predicting their tastes in politicians has always been problematic.

To pinpoint which of the candidates appeals most to female voters, *Komsomolskaya Pravda*, the Moscow daily newspaper, recently asked women in the capital which leading politician they would refuse to share a lift with alone. Not surprisingly, the least popular choice was Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the ultra-nationalist firebrand who, in spite of a recent charm offensive to woo women voters, is still best remembered for beating a woman deputy in parliament last year. About 27 per cent of the respondents said they would not go near a lift if he was standing beside it.

President Yeltsin, who has been emphasising his role as a devoted husband and father, did better, with only 8 per cent of women refusing the "lift challenge" with him. Gennadi Zyuganov, the Communist front-runner, was marginally more popular.

Those who fared best were Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet leader, Yegor Gaidar, the former Russian Prime Minister, and Aleksandr Lebed, the burly former paratrooper.

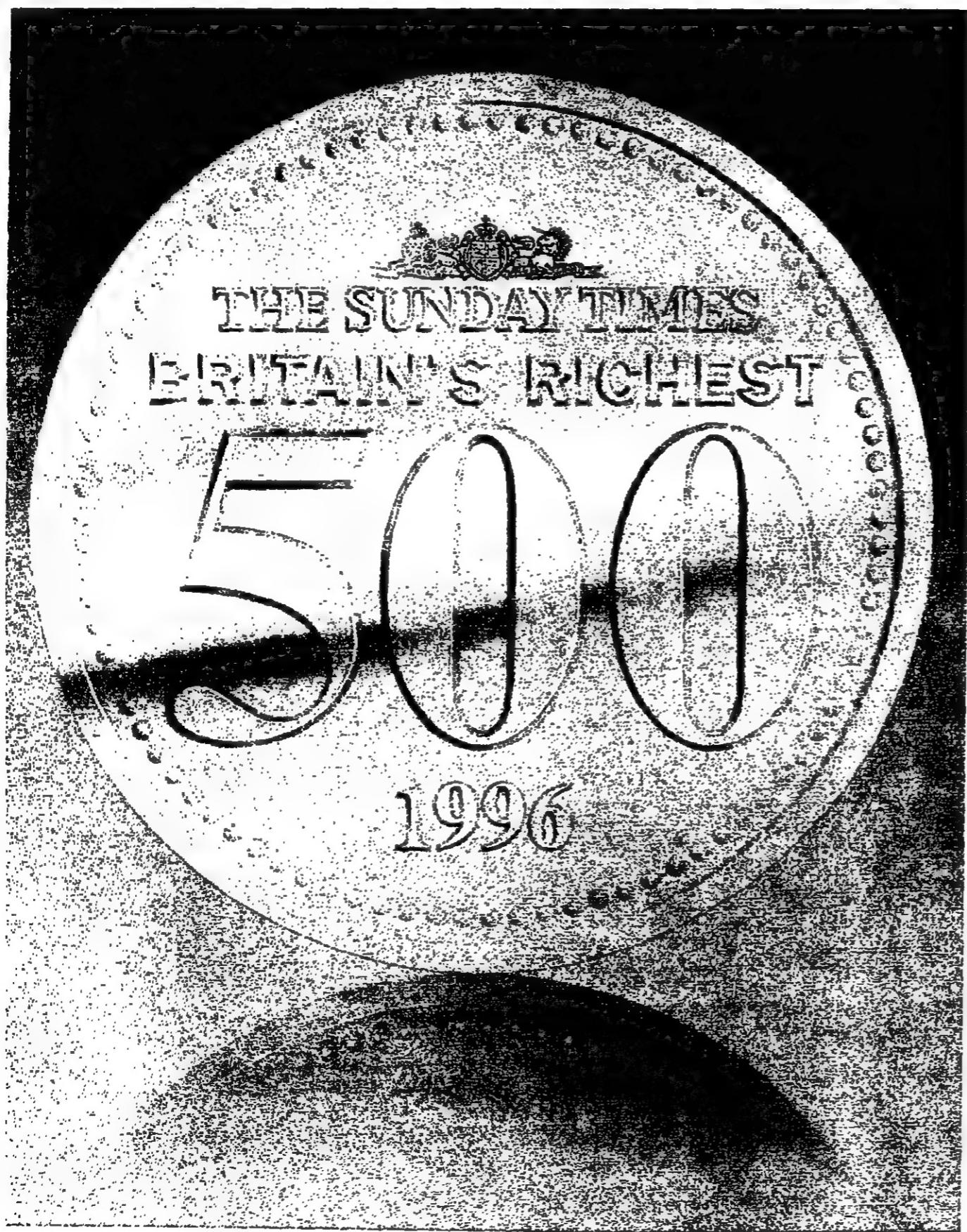
## Tales of the Muscovite mafia

AFTER years of being subjected to Western police serials, regarded as far too tame by most Russian viewers, Muscovites will soon be able to watch a series devoted to the brutal world of their own criminals.

The new police drama, called *In the Name of the Law*, will be a co-production between

Nikita Mikhalkov, the Oscar-winning Russian director, and some of Hollywood's best producers and writers. The series, which follows the exploits of an honest detective fighting corruption, was proposed after documentary-style films on the mafia were considered too dangerous.

## THE SUNDAY TIMES



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## Mother suspected of Paris murders

FROM SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

THE architect Marguerite Zakrzewski, found hanged on Tuesday with her murdered husband and two sons in the wealthy Paris suburb of Sceaux, became the main suspect in the case yesterday as police received the first post-mortem examination results showing that she was the last to die.

Investigators believe that the father and elder son were killed Sunday night while the mother and younger son did not die until the next day. Traces of drugs were found in the bodies. More definitive post-mortem examination results are expected over the weekend as police check reports that Mme Zakrzewski visited Sceaux on Monday.

The bodies of the family were discovered by a school friend of the couple's elder son Adam, 16, who visited the Zakrzewski house when neither brother turned up for classes after the Easter weekend. Like his father Piotr, 48, also an architect, Adam was discovered in his bed, virtually decapitated. Both had apparently been killed while they slept.

The body of the younger son Arthur, 12, was discovered close to his mother. He had been strangled and hanged. The family were all wearing pyjamas except for Mme Zakrzewski, who was elegantly dressed. Police said last night that her clothing was without bloodstains and that her body showed no sign of struggle.

No blood was found near the bodies or anywhere in the house, which police say had been cleaned after the murders.

## Spaniards hunt for drug case fugitive

FROM DOMINIQUE SEARLE IN GIBRALTAR

SPANISH Civil Guards were searching yesterday for a Spaniard who escaped from a boat chase for suspected drug smugglers which ended with a Spanish helicopter crashing into the sea, killing one of the crew.

The authorities in Cádiz said they had been unable to trace more than 1,300lb of cannabis which two men have allegedly confessed to unloading on a near beach near La Linea, the town bordering Gibraltar. The men — a Gibraltar and a Moroccan — were held after the chase.

Spain has accused Britain of failing to stop drug and tobacco trafficking from Gibraltar.

Royal Gibraltar Police confirmed that the owner of a rigid inflatable boat who was arrested in the operation has been released on bail.

Queues continued to build up yesterday as people crossing to and from Gibraltar were subjected to stringent checks imposed by César Braña, the regional Governor, after the incident. The Rock's trading community is concerned that if these controls are sustained — it was taking up to an hour just to walk into Gibraltar, and nearly four to drive out — tourists and shoppers will stop coming from Spain.

That would quickly set off an economic crisis for Gibraltar, which has already suffered from the reduced presence of the Ministry of Defence. In ten years the military's contribution to the local economy has fallen from about 60 per cent of the total to 6 per cent. Another 700 jobs are planned to go over the next two years.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

17



■ OPINION

Sad spectacle  
on sawdust: can't  
we do something  
to revive our  
200-year-old  
circus tradition?



■ THEATRE

The effects of  
war on humans,  
and a non-human,  
are explored in  
Martin Sherman's  
*Some Sunny Day*



■ BASE NOTES

*Crazy for You*,  
the musical  
based on  
Gershwin's best  
tunes, goes on  
national tour



■ BASE NOTES

Gloria Estefan  
will supply the  
anthem for  
this summer's  
Olympic Games  
in Atlanta

When I come to write my indispensable reference tome, *Bad Nights Out in Norfolk*, I shall certainly include last Tuesday's dismal débâcle. It had seemed such a good wheeze at the time: take the kids to see a "traditional" circus before the forces of political correctness finally succeed in expurgating all performing animals from British life. But, like most of my good wheezes, it proved to be a horrible mistake.

We entered a field outside Norwich. We handily beat the best part of £40 to Chipperfield's Circus. We watched four youths do a skipping-rope routine that could be managed by reasonably sprightly pensioners. This turned out to be the first act. We watched a man attempt to start a cardboard taxi until his trousers fell down. The programme claimed that he was a clown. If he was a clown, I am the Patriarch of Constantinople.

Where were the fire-eaters, knife-throwers, sword-swallowers, death-defying high-wire stuntmen,

mind-boggling contortionists? Perhaps it was their night off. True, three glam characters produced a few elementary spins on a trapeze. But there was nothing worthy of an "ooh" or an "aah" here.

In any case, any audience reaction was drowned by a raucous stream of noise from a four-piece band. "At least it's live music," I yelled at my wife. Whereupon she shook her head and yelled back: "I'm not wearing a watch." Enigmatic woman, my wife.

What of the animals? A woman brought on a few horses and made them stand on their hind legs. A man brought on some oddly docile tigers. Guess what? They stood on their hind legs too. Somebody else brought on three sea lions and threw hoops at them. Sometimes the hoops looped over the sea lions' heads; sometimes they missed altogether. Amazing.

As a grand finale, three boys did wheelies on pushbikes. "I can do that," said my younger son. Not quite the gob-smacked reaction for which a father hopes after he has spent £40 treating his family to the circus. But a fair comment, I fear. This show had all the dangerous allure of a knitting pattern.

What has gone wrong with our circuses? You don't have to be very old to recall the era when Bertram Mills and Billy Smart toured the country with hundreds of performers human and beastly. Now the British circus is reduced to this: a damp squib in a damp field outside Norwich. Smell of the greasepaint? Roar of the crowd? You must be joking.

Some claim that British circus effectively died in the early 1980s, when many local councils — encouraged by the RSPCA — banned animal acts from their

land, alleging that the training was cruel. Clearly, the "breaking in" of any performing animal is not a job for soft hearts or liberals, and in some parts of the world the methods can be grotesque. In

Moscow a few years ago I asked a top Russian circus boss how he achieved the unique feat of getting chickens to dance to *Swan Lake*. His answer may have lost something in the translation, but it definitely involved saucerpans of boiling water.

British circuses, however, have never stooped to these horrific practices, and they claim to be victims of hypocrisy in a society that happily watches grueling equestrian events — or, for that matter, approves the politically expedient slaughter of 30,000 healthy cows each week. It is a fair point. But actually I don't think the decline of the British circus has much to do with the animal ban. The sad fact is that, as with practically every other physical recreation, the British taught the world to play the game but

have now been thoroughly outclassed by our former pupils.

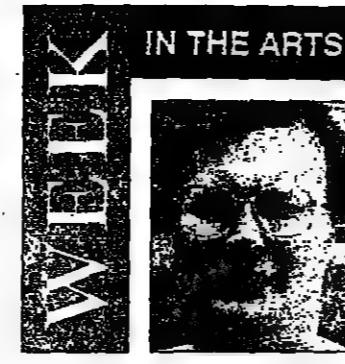
A broad, circus is considered chic, exciting, even intellectually stimulating. The Canadian-based Cirque du Soleil has redefined the form as vast acrobatic ballets. Russian circus clowns, who think nothing of interpolating Shakespearean skins into their acts, have achieved cult followings across the world. So has Archies, the wild motorbike-and-chainsaw circus from France. In Monte Carlo, glamorous circus festivals are held under royal patronage.

In short, foreign companies are nurturing the circus equivalent of Disneyworld, while ours — those that still exist — appear to be stuck in Butlin's, circa 1955. Consequently, our best acrobats-entertainers are going abroad; that's the only way they can earn a living. Yes, I know that we have several small,

successful "physical theatre" groups. But what I am talking about are spectacular, populist entertainments, not art-house specialties. Are we really content that the country which produced Chaplin, Monty Python, Benny Hill and Peter Sellers cannot now compete with the French and the Canadians in the field of surreal visual humour? Good grief, I knew things were bad, but I didn't realise they were that bad.

So here is a populist challenge for the Arts Council. Let's resurrect the 200-year-old tradition of British circus, both as a vibrant art form and as a potentially huge money-spinner. The lottery was surely invented for tasks like this, and a little seed money spent on top-quality training and equipment would be quickly recouped. Let's put the "ooh" factor back into our cultural life. Remind the world that nobody performs better on sawdust than the British. And never again allow the Greatest Show on Earth to disintegrate into a bad night out in Norfolk.

## What we need is bread for circuses



RICHARD MORRISON



"Human [and one inhuman] particles impelled by the prospect of disaster to demonstrate Heisenberg's uncertainty principle": Sara Kestelman, Rupert Everett and Corin Redgrave in a scene from Martin Sherman's *Some Sunny Day*

DONALD COOPER  
BASE NOTES

## Gershwin on tour

ONE of the most popular West End musicals of recent years is taking to the road. The Gershwin comedy *Crazy For You* is embarking on a national tour, which opens at the Birmingham Hippodrome on June 22. Tim Flavin and Fiona Benjamin will lead a company of 45 actors and musicians; both Flavin (who was nominated for an Olivier Award) and Benjamin were in the West End production, which itself won the Olivier Award for Best Musical. The tour of *Crazy For You* will remount the West End production, making it one of the largest shows ever to tour Britain. The director Mike Ockrent and the choreographer Susan Stroman will be returning to the production to oversee its Birmingham opening.

• POP stars Mick Hucknall and Gloria Estefan seem to be heading for massive hits this summer, thanks to the world of sport. The Simply Red star's track, *We're in this Together*,

has been chosen as the official theme song for football's forthcoming European Championships, while Estefan's new single, *Reach*, is to be the anthem of the Summer Olympics, which open in Atlanta on July 18.

• THE Canadian star Celine Dion began the fashion, winning the 1993 Eurovision Song Contest singing in French for Switzerland. This year's contest sees the cross-cultural process gathering pace. Not only will Britain's entry, *Ooh Aah... Just A Little Bit*, be performed by the Australian Gina G, but the French song, a Celtic ballad titled *Diwani Bugale*, will be sung by Karen Matheson, lead singer of the Scottish band Capercaillie, and Elaine Morgan, from Wales. The Eurovision contest takes place in Oslo on May 18.

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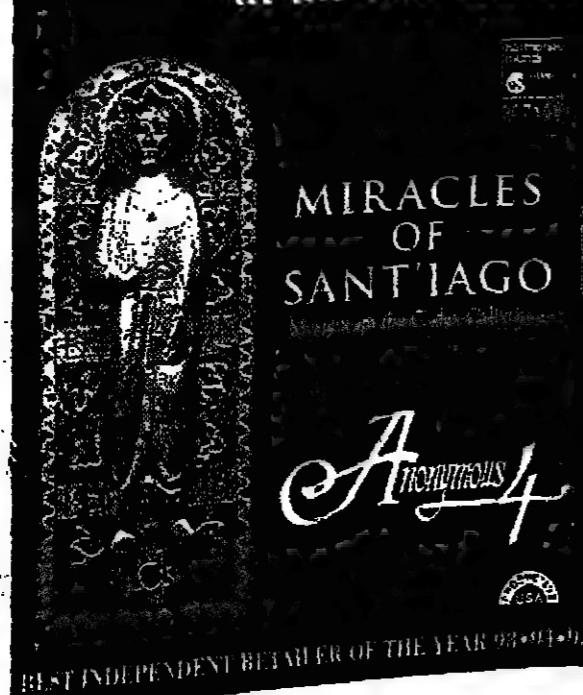
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**Sibelius Symphony Weekend** Gothic Fantasy Concerto. Neeme Järvi conductor. Sibelius The Oceansides, Symphony No 4 in A minor. Symphony No 5 in E minor. £7.50, £11, £14, £16, £22.50. Pre-concert talk with Frederick Winstone Clermont 3, level 4 at 6pm.

Sun 14 Apr 4.00pm  
**Sibelius Symphony Weekend** Gothic Fantasy Concerto. Neeme Järvi conductor. Sibelius Tapiola, Symphony No 3 in D minor. Symphony No 5 in E flat. £7.50, £11, £14, £16, £22.50.

Sun 14 Apr 8.00pm  
**Sibelius Symphony Weekend** Gothic Fantasy Concerto. Neeme Järvi conductor. Sibelius Pohjola's Daughter, Symphony No 6 in D minor. £7.50, £11, £14, £16, £22.50.

Tues 15 Apr 7.30pm  
**London Symphony Orchestra** Michael Tilson Thomas conductor Barry Douglas piano. Holst's Third Concerto for Orchestra world premiere. LSO commission. Beethoven's Piano Concerto No 3 in E flat, Esopus 68 - 200.

Thurs 18 Apr 7.30pm  
**London Symphony Orchestra** Michael Tilson Thomas conductor. Jean-Yves Thibaudet piano. Stravinsky Circus Polka; Ode, Husky Variations, Agon. Ravel Piano Concerto in G; La Valse. £5 - 120.

Fri 19 Apr 7.30pm  
**Anne-Sophie Mutter violin** Robert Stoltzman piano. Celebrity Recital. Brahms Violin and piano concerto; Cesar Franck Sonata for violin and piano No 2; Beethoven's Sonata No 1 for violin and piano. Op 30 Serenade; Alles beherrschte, Op 20 Wieslawski Ländere in G minor; Op 17 Serenade; Carmen Fantasy. £5 - 120.

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THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996



■ MUSICALS

Back in his *Salad Days*: Julian Slade recalls the first performance of his hit show



■ RISING STAR

At the age of 14, Glasgow-born Iain Robertson finds that he is Britain's newest film star



■ CHOICE

From Philip Schofield to Sibelius: see our new guide to top shows in Weekend, pages 12 and 13



■ ON MONDAY

Terry Gilliam talks about the making of *Twelve Monkeys*, and working with one Bruce Willis

Jeremy Kingston talks to Julian Slade about 40 years of *Salad Days*

## Evergreen returns

**T**wenty years ago, *Salad Days*, the musical with the magic piano that makes people dance, was revived in the West End to celebrate the twentieth (in fact, twenty-second) anniversary of its first appearance there. Next week at the Vaudeville the fortieth anniversary (ie, the forty-second) is likewise commemorated, and perhaps some far-planning impresario is already thinking ahead to the year 2016.

Julian Slade, co-author with Dorothy Reynolds of the book and lyrics, and sole composer of the music, will then be in his mid-eighties. By that time he may be unable to move around his Chelsea basement flat because the scores of ornaments and mementoes, already populating every level surface, will have invaded all corners of the carpet.

There is even a piano on Slade's piano, but it is a miniature reproduction of the one in the 1954 show, which in its day was the longest running musical in the world, outlasting New York's  *Oklahoma!* and London's *Chu-Chin-Chow* and *The Boy Friend*, the other home-grown, tune-packed musical of the period.

The story behind the show also has more than a touch of theatrical magic: a production planned to last three weeks at

the Bristol Old Vic transfers to London and runs for six years. "I was their resident composer," Slade explains, "writing incidental music for the productions, and I had collaborated with Dorothy, who was a member of the company, on two Christmas shows, which had been pretty successful. So Denis Carey, who ran the Bristol Old Vic in those days, asked us to write a summer revue, and the first thing I wrote was *Cleopatra*.

"But after I'd written the number, Denis changed his mind. He thought it would be better to have a musical play, particularly as we now had a title. It was suggested to us by the barmaid at the theatre. The company had done *Antony and Cleopatra* as part of the spring season, and she had heard Cleopatra say, 'My salad days, when I was green in judgment'. When she told us she thought it would make a good title, we all said, 'Olive, you're a genius! Now we've just got to think what it's going to be about.'

What he and Dorothy Reynolds created was a story of two people, just out of university, who are not sure what to do next. "We wanted to write a fun show for the existing company. But we were very conscious that there were a lot of young people around — and I was only 23 — who were

being pressurised by their families, and I'm sure that's where the first ideas came from. The idea of Timothy being pressurised to 'find himself' something to do and Jane being pressurised to 'make a good marriage'. They decide to solve this for her by marrying each other, because they've been bosom pals at university, and find a job which is nothing to do with their parents. Then in walks the tramp with the piano. He offers them £7 a week to look after it for a month. And the piano turns out to make everybody dance."

The original cast were virtually unknown outside their local audience, but Ned Sherrin's production offers two stars, Kit and the Widow, Kit Hesketh-Harvey plays all Timothy's uncles, including Uncle Ted, who arrives on a flying saucer, and the man in the dress-shop. "We've turned him into another uncle, so that's a slight change in the plot." The Widow, otherwise Richard Sissen, plays the non-speaking part of Troppo, the clown who guards the piano. Does he get the chance to play?

"Oh, yes. That's the great difference in this production: the piano works. In the original the keyboard was a dummy and it was all mimed in the pit. And by some amazing chance, not only Richard but David Morton, who is the tramp, and Simon Connolly, who's Timothy, can also play the piano, and they do."

And suddenly everyone starts dancing. "Look at me! Oh, look at me!" Sometimes a magic piano is not needed if a tune is catchy enough.

■ *Salad Days* opens on Thursday at the Vaudeville Theatre, Strand, London WC2 (0171-836 9987)



Julian Slade on *Salad Days*: "We were very conscious that there were a lot of young people around — and I was only 23 — who were being pressurised by their families, and I'm sure that's where the first ideas came from"

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament

IAN ROBERTSON



■ Profession: Actor  
Big break: Landing the lead role in Gillies MacKinnon's award-winning film *Small Faces*, a tale of growing up in 1960s Glasgow gangland culture.

Age: 14, ie, not old enough to buy a ticket for *Small Faces*, which carries a 15 certificate.  
Day job: Full-time student at the Sylvia Young Theatre School in London.

What started the ball rolling? Son of a Glasgow audio-visual technician, he had no thoughts of becoming an actor until he read a comment in his primary school report when he was 11: "This boy shows a special aptitude for drama."

Story so far: "I decided to take the hint and joined a local amateur company in Govan. My first play was *No Mean City*, when I was 12." A year later he set up his own theatre company, Gust (Glasgow Under-Sixteens Theatre), writing, directing and acting in its first production, *The Scapfile*. Since moving to London, he has chalked up a respectable list of television credits. When he auditioned for *Small Faces*, he almost lost the role because of fears his voice would break before the film was completed. His impersonation of Popeye clinched the deal.

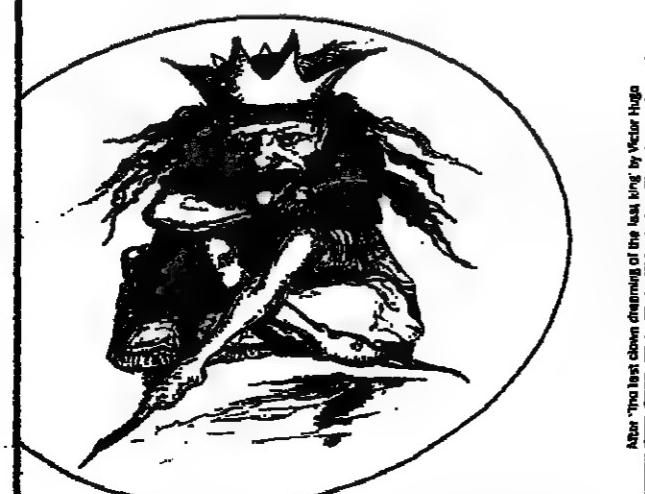
Worries? "Fear of being typecast as a 'nice wee Scots boy'. When I was offered the part of a mentally-disturbed Irish boy who murders a policewoman in *Kavanagh QC*, I jumped at it."

And in the future? "I want to develop my writing and directing. I can't wait to mount another *Gust* production. I'd also like to set up a trust fund to help other youngsters explore their artistic abilities. There's loads of talent in Glasgow."

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SEE THE TIMES ON MONDAY FOR FULL DETAILS

The Tory party needs a stronger, more conservative manifesto to allay anxieties and rally support, says John Redwood

**R**obert Peel's Tamworth Manifesto rallied Conservatives. It gave them a programme for reform. It released the energies of British manufacturing for a generation. It defended what was best in the previous decades.

The Conservatives' manifesto for this most recent by-election offered no such vision. It was rejected by the electors. It leaves the party needing a new impetus to carry it to victory in the general election.

There is a temptation for both politicians and journalists to misinterpret by-elections. Opposition parties, when they win, claim it proves they will win the country. Governing parties, defending and losing, say these results are of no significance, merely a protest vote.

The truth is somewhere between the two. The Staffordshire South East by-election does not prove Labour is bound to win. Nor should it be brushed too readily aside by the Government. This is no longer mid-term. People's worries should be taken seriously. The seats lost in by-elections in the last Parliament did not prove difficult to win back in the general election, but that general election confirmed a loss of support in many marginal seats: 1992 brought the majority down with a bump.

It is time for some soul searching by the Conservatives. What does the party have to do to re-establish its winning ways? How can it set out a ringing declaration,

## How to win back Tamworth

like Peel's at Tamworth? Can it fashion a policy to the temper and needs of the age?

Electors sense that at home and abroad politicians are not measuring up to the magnitude of the problems. The economy is recovering from the early 1990s slump, but so far it has proved a voteless recovery. People still distrust the state of trade, fearing that their jobs may be the next to go in some great corporate restructuring. They still find selling their houses a difficult, painful business.

They sense the whirlwind of change that global trade and new technology are unleashing but feel their leaders have let them down, not explaining it enough or helping them enough.

It was such a time of change that fathered the Tamworth declaration. New manufacturers felt threatened by tariffs and taxes. They welcomed Peel's onslaught on these impediments to prosperity. Today, the Government should explain why we welcome the new technology. It should restate the case for free trade and for taking a global view of our future.

The English language and our enthusiasm for computers and communications equip us well for this new world. Rules

and regulations should be cut back, opportunities grasped. A crusade to raise educational standards is needed. It requires tough decisions on styles and standards of teaching. These will be so much the easier for explaining that there is a purpose, that our children have something to look forward to. By thinking globally and excelling at English and computing we can capture the jobs and incomes we need. If we want and expect one of the highest living standards in the world, we must work effectively and supply the goods and services the new age expects. The Government should explain how we can do that.

People feel let down by the tax increases of recent years. Conservatives have to show that this year's reductions are the start of a programme to lower the burden on the majority. Tax cutting is a moral crusade. It leaves people with more freedom to choose. A prosperous economy trading with the world is the way to cut welfare and taxes together; as people gain jobs they shed income support.

People are worried that this Government is destroying cherished institutions. In particular they see it as no friend of the

National Health Service. At a time of considerable uncertainty about jobs and family incomes, people need even more reassurance that if they were to fall ill they would be looked after. It is no good saying that there have been more operations and more treatments, if what people see is the closure of their local hospital and worries about the availability of beds at the district hospital. We would all find it reassuring if beds and hospitals stayed open unless there was general agreement in the local community that the hospital had outlived its working life.

A Conservative Government, at a time of change, has to tell people that some changes are necessary, irresistible, even for the better. It should try to prevent any other change, to leave people with some stability in their lives.

Many voters found the closure of Bart's Hospital, and the rumoured threats to Admiralty Arch and Greenwich, unacceptable. Why need these things change when so much else has to? They find it odd that, at a time of all too many families breaking down, the Government should choose to introduce proposals which

resent the damage done to our fishing industry by the common fisheries policy.

The Government needs to show our European partners that we keep our word. We want to influence Europe for the better. We have ideas that could lower the dole queues and get business moving again. That is more important to most people in Europe than the next steps towards a centralised state. We need to show that Europe, as well as Britain, will prosper only if it opens windows on the world. We need to trade with America and to swap technology with Asia. We should do more to help the new democracies to the east of our continent to prosper by pulling down the barriers to fair exchange. We need to show that there is a better way than the Franco-German big government scheme, which is destroying jobs and worrying many people.

When Defoe visited Tamworth he reported that it was "a fine pleasant trading town, eminent for good ale and good company, of the middling sort". Such a Tamworth still speaks for a Britain that can prosper gently by thinking globally. Tamworth can be won back by the Conservatives at the general election.

To do so will require a stronger manifesto than was served up there in the last few weeks. It will require a manifesto which touches the uncertainties and worries of electors about their own futures and the future of our nation.

## Swan of Avon, son of Rome

Margarita Stocker defends her claim that Shakespeare was a secret Catholic

**H**ave you ever wondered why, from the Royal Shakespeare Theatre at Stratford-upon-Avon, to sports centres in seaside towns, the country is strewn with more productions of *Macbeth* than even the most fervent Burdolator could possibly want?

No doubt some future pundit will marvel at this phenomenon and conclude that in the Nineties we flocked to the Scottish play and to *Braveheart* because we had fallen in love with Scotland. Alas, the reason is more prosaic: the Department for Education has decreed that every schoolchild in the land must study *Macbeth*, and this captive audience is the answer to any cash-strapped theatre's prayer. We are being force-fed *Macbeth* — with or without madwomen urinating onstage — simply because of the commercial dictates of historical circumstance.

To mention this rudely realistic fact may offend those who jealously guard the Bard's reputation as a universal genius, untrammeled by time and place. Yet, albeit tremendously gifted, he also was a man of his time: an ambitious, balding, bisexual playwright from a provincial town in Reformation England.

Consequently, when it was reported on Tuesday that I had found in *Love's Labours Lost* new evidence that he was secretly a Roman Catholic, another Shakespeare scholar dismissed my article as "rubbish" — because the play "still works on stage", and if Shakespeare's intentions are a mystery we should leave it that way. The fact is that scholars have long suspected that there is more to this seemingly light romantic comedy than meets the untrained eye. Hitherto, we have not even been sure how many apostrophes to put in the title. Now, perhaps, we can do better than John Major, who fluffed a jibe at the opposition benches when he referred to some play called "Love Labour Lost".

Like the actor who, touring in *Macbeth*, furiously told a noisy audience of schoolchildren to "shut the f\*\*\* up", Shakespeare was also at the mercy of historical circumstance.

Thirty years before Shakespeare's birth, England was officially declared Protestant, and 60 years after his death the Government was still executing Catholic subversives. In Elizabethan England, the stealeable minority of recusants who held to the Old Faith risked the threat of prosecution, financial and corporal punishment, and — since Catholics were automatically suspected of treason — even death. Since religion was the crucial issue of the time, whether one attended evening service on a Sunday was a matter for ready-eyed local surveillance. And such evidence

Shakespeare reveals to us the most significant fact in his life

Even in a play of unabashed Tudor propaganda, *Henry VII* (mostly written in fact, by John Fletcher), the most sympathetic characters are Cardinal Wolsey and the Catholic queen Mary whom Henry had divorced.

*Love's Labours Lost* has been an enigma for 400 years because it is a cryptic protest against the persecution of Catholics. Clever enough to evade censorship and prosecution, the play is nevertheless packed with references to religious controversy and political figures that are instantly recognizable to a contemporary audience. And if we too have at last got the message, then Shakespeare has revealed to us what was probably the single most significant fact in his life.

The next time you watch an actor exploring the personal angst of Macbeth, remember that that play is shot through with references to the Catholic Gunpowder Plot. Never mind The Scottish Play — we should call it The Bonfire Night Play.

Dr Stocker is a fellow of St Hilda's College, Oxford.

In the first of six articles, Anatole Kaletsky begins the most detailed scrutiny of Opposition policy so far

**U**sually it comes between the aubergine caviar and the salmon en papillote, though sometimes it can be staved off until the moment of decision between coffee and camomile tea. Sooner or later, however, the dreaded question has to be faced by anyone who claims to know about British politics these days: "Yes, but what will they do?"

The dinner-party consensus is no longer interested in whether Labour will win. Everyone knows that John Major could pull off a surprise victory, since nothing in politics can be ruled out. But beyond that there is little of interest to say about who will be the next Prime Minister. The conversation quickly turns from "who" to "what".

"What will Blair do? Will he really take single mothers off welfare? Can he restore the cheap and cheerful efficiency of the National Health Service? Will he sign up to the social chapter and the single currency? Or will he waste all his time on tinkering with the House of Lords?" All eyes turn to the putative pundit: "Er, um..."

It was time to do some work. With only a year to go before the general election, it seemed surprising how little was known about Labour's plans for power, even among the chattering classes. We all know that Labour will reform the House of Lords and create a Scottish Assembly. But beyond that, what unequivocal, on-the-record commitments has Labour really made?

I acquired the complete works of Tony Blair, Gordon Brown et al — speeches, policy papers and so on — a tower of paper 2ft high. And that was without such semi-official pronouncements as *The Blair Revolution* by Peter Mandelson or influential outside contributions such as Will Hutton's *The State We're In*.

Labour also has a more positive reason for dodging economic commitments. Rather than offering

ments has remained evasive on the key economic issues — above all the questions of tax and monetary policy which obsess both the media and the middle class. This obscurity has been deliberate. It is an article of faith in the Blair camp that the plans for higher taxes announced just before the last election were largely responsible for Labour's defeat. From this premise Labour has concluded that the way to avoid another debacle is not to reveal their tax until the last possible moment. This is an odd idea, if you think about it, since that was exactly what John Smith did in 1992. But more of that on Monday.

Labour also has a more positive reason for dodging economic commitments. Rather than offering

clear alternatives on tax inflation and economic growth, Labour's strategy is merely to attack the Tory record and so neutralise the traditional Tory lead on these issues. Labour can then concentrate on battlefield-like education, health, welfare and the quality of life, where Mr Blair's brand of ethical "socialism" can rouse the mercenary individualism of the Tories.

Opinion polls confirm Labour's view that education, health and welfare now matter more to voters than economics. And in all these areas — which I will examine next week — Labour is far ahead. But keeping attention focused on social issues may become more difficult as the election approaches. This is Labour's second problem in coming across as a party that knows what to do with power.

Mr Blair believes, quite rightly, that governments can often get things done without spending public money. Instead of raising new taxes or changing the monetary framework, a government can change priorities, revise legislation, reallocate public spending or simply try to change the climate of opinion. Mr Blair also believes, again with justice, that successful reforms in education and welfare could contribute greatly to prosperity and long-term economic growth. Yet most people persist in thinking that economic policy is critical, not only in winning elections, but also in running governments. As long as Labour's economic policies remain obscure, therefore, attention will constantly shift back

from his chosen social battlefield to the economy. And the longer Mr Blair tries to avoid revealing his economic commitments, the more suspect his entire programme will become — and the greater the risk that a wavering middle class will succumb to the Tory propaganda machine.

This leads to Labour's third, and most troubling, credibility problem. Are Mr Blair's promises any guide to what Labour would do in power? Again and again in my conversations with businessmen and middle-class voters, I heard the phrase "remember the GLC". Many voters still seem to fear a post-election palace coup, modelled on what happened in 1985 when the "loony Left", led by Ken Livingstone, ousted the moderate Labour leadership within 24 hours of Labour winning control of the Greater London Council.

**T**he Blair camp is well aware of this lack of trust. Indeed, they say openly that their biggest electoral challenge is to persuade the voters that the likeable Mr Blair is the authentic face of new Labour. To borrow a phrase from the world of computers, Labour must prove it is now a party where "what you get is what you get". But this critical task, too, is made more difficult by Mr Blair's evasiveness on economics. As we shall see on Monday, the outlines of an unthreatening and plausible strategy can be discerned in Labour's economic pronouncements. Yet Mr Blair refuses to put the middle class and the

business community at ease by spelling out his full plans.

The same turns out to be true on education, health, welfare, industry or local government. The broad plans are clear enough, but when one gets close enough to seek the critical details, the policies begin to shimmer and vanish like a mirage.

If he could allay suspicions once and for all on future levels of taxes, the minimum wage and a few other critical variables, Labour would become virtually invulnerable to the only weapon the Tories seem to possess — the question of trust. But if Mr Blair allows middle-class suspicions to fester, he may find it hard to stop detections back to the Tory fold as the election draws near.

Mr Blair must perceive the political merit of allaying suspicions well before the election. To win trust today is much easier than to wait for the feverish atmosphere of an election. Why, then, doesn't he announce the critical details that could make his policies stand up — whether on the top rate of tax, minimum wages or the method for weeding out incompetent teachers?

Is it because revealing the full Labour agenda would be political suicide, as the Tories claim?

Is it because he must hide his true intentions for fear of provoking the class-warriors of old Labour? Or is it because he really does not know what he wants to do with power?

These are among the questions on which I hope to shed some light in the next week.

Simon Jenkins is away.

## Reign fall?

**T**HE SEPARATION of Princess Alexandra's daughter Marina Mowat and her far from distinguished photographer husband Paul comes just days before a disastrous poll for the Royal Family. On Monday, a television documentary will show that republicans have increased in number by at least 500 per cent over the past decade.

For its programme *The Republic of Britain: World in Action*'s MORI poll shows that at least 25

per cent of Her Majesty's subjects want a republic. Foremost among them are many Labour supporters, and Tony Blair will be less than enchanted by the views of Jon Norton, the partner of his Northern Ireland spokeswoman Mo Mowlam. He suggests on the programme that the Royal Family's time is past.

Canvassed on the most suitable member of the Royal Family to take over the reins from the Queen, many more individuals opted for



the Princess Royal than for the lacklustre Prince of Wales. And Betty Boothroyd was the most popular choice as a potential president of a British republic.

The republican agenda, meanwhile, appears to be penetrating our most sacred institutions. I understand that a bunch of royal lookalikes is hoping to stage its show, *The Fairytale Royal Wedding*, at Lord's cricket ground. There is talk of a topless Diana, but the show's organisers insist that the actors will remain clothed.

### Auld enemy

SCOTTISH Nationalists are crowding over a rare victory. Michael Forsyth, the feisty Scottish Secretary, has withdrawn from next week's planned commemoration of

the 250th anniversary of the Battle of Culloden. Culloden was where the Duke of Cumberland quashed the forces of Bonnie Prince Charlie and the Jacobite rebels.

The Scottish Office is saying that Forsyth must attend a Cabinet meeting in London on Tuesday. A senior civil servant will take his place. The Scottish Nationalists say "pah!"

The National Trust for Scotland had already warned of the over-emotional types who are dogging the anniversary. Nationalist hot-heads recently sprayed the commemorative Cumberbatch Stone with the words "murderers" and "British genocide". The SNP, who accused Forsyth of wanting to use the commemoration as a photo opportunity, will be at Drumossie Muir three miles from Inverness, in force. They claim that their motives are in some strange way untrainted by political considerations.

### High price ...

AFTER the Tories' latest by-election defeat in Staffordshire South East, some senior Conservatives are suggesting that their party should not even bother contesting by-elections in future. While Brian Mawhinney, the natty chairman

seemed gripped by a strange gallows humour yesterday, and the Prime Minister was said to be in good spirits, they must still face the fact that each by-election costs the party about £100,000 and results in nothing but humiliation.

Harold Wilson provides the inspiration here. He was the first modern Prime Minister not to travel to constituencies during by-elections. After some initial flak, his decision became a firmly established precedent. Thanks to Wilson, John Major does not have to campaign in by-elections. Why not

extend the principle so that the party in power does not have to waste precious resources?

**Summit talks**

A HEAVYWEIGHT logistical problem exists in the Yorkshire Dales: how to elevate Lord Healey to the summit of one of the region's highest peaks. The ramblers and conservation group Friends of DalesRail want their president to unveil a plaque atop the 2,273ft Penyghent.

The friends have ruled out portly Healey ascending under his own steam. "To be honest, I've been ducking sending the invitation to Lord Healey," says the secretary, Frank Reynolds. "How will we get him to the top? A helicopter?" Healey is keeping his head down: "I know nothing about it," he says.

### Spaced out

EVEN THOUGH he is life-president and a former chairman of Watford Football Club, Elton John, the follicly-challenged singer, has been stopped from parking his Bentley in the directors' car park. At the last match, car and chauffeur were dispatched to the lesser guest car park further from the

stadium.

So appalled, apparently, was our Elton that he left before half time. In a huff, the club secretary, John Alexander, says there was no room.

● He was laid to rest in Highgate Cemetery in 1983, but Karl Marx, the father of Communism, has been brought back to life. In the last bulletin of the Association of British Science Writers, his name appeared on a blacklist of members who failed to pay the correct subscription fee.

P.H.S.



Royal lookalikes play up the monarchy.

JAY JONES



## BY-ELECTION BLUES

They woke up in the morning, stared defeat in the face

"We still have a lot of work to do," was the understatement of the day from John Major, contemplating his party's dreadful defeat in the Staffordshire South East by-election. Less insightful was the end of his sentence: "to get our message across". It is a cliché of Tory party conferences that electoral unpopularity is blamed on poor presentation. But politics is about more than public relations. Political success demands leadership, vision and competence, and this administration has been marked by a lack of all three.

Again the Tories were left wrongfooted by the scale of Labour's victory on Thursday night. At the start of the campaign, there were mutterings that this might be the first seat since Richmond in 1989 that the Conservatives would hold. Such a success would mark the beginnings of an electoral recovery. As the weeks wore on, the Tories became more realistic: a Labour majority of under 5,000 would be presented as a turning point. But the actual majority of 13,762 on a 22 per cent swing surpassed their worst fears.

They could not even realistically claim (though they tried) that Tories had just stayed at home. In fact the turnout, at 60 per cent, was relatively high for a by-election. What should worry the Conservatives is that so many of their supporters actually voted for Labour. A victory on this scale for the main Opposition party is unprecedented at this point in the electoral cycle.

Time is running out and so is the Conservative majority. Each month that passes without a turn-up in the polls makes the recovery that would be needed to win the next election steeper still. And the danger increases that Mr Major might be forced into an earlier election: the gap facing him in the polls could be gaping. He must soon realise that his tactic of twinning an economic recovery with scare stories about Labour is not enough. A return of the "feel-good" factor may be a necessary condition of a Tory re-

covery, but it is by no means sufficient. And attacks on Labour's competence have little force unless the Government is demonstrably more competent than its rivals.

It is sometimes said by Tory strategists that the party is seen as "cruel but efficient" while Labour is "compassionate but incompetent". Yet such has been this Government's record of mismanagement that it risks being labelled as "cruel" and incompetent. Faced with choice between a Labour administration that might be incompetent and a Tory one that has proved itself so, voters might well decide to risk the former.

The Conservative Party may argue all it likes about whether it should shift to the Right or fight Tony Blair on the centre ground. Both tactics have flaws: a shift to the Right cedes the centre to Labour, a patch of territory that Mr Blair has shown himself delighted to occupy. Yet if the Tories do not show clear differences between themselves and the Opposition, voters may feel reassured in voting for what will seem like a mere managerial change.

But ideology is a second-order problem if a Government is not capable of running the country properly. BSE was not a party political issue, but it seems extraordinary that, over ten years, ministers could not have made advance plans for the contingency that BSE might be connected with CJD. Instead we saw the spectacle of ministers flailing in public, departments squabbling, decisions being overturned and an industry threatened with bankruptcy. Neither consumers nor farmers have been mollified.

Europe is the one issue on which the Conservatives could really outflank Labour. Yet, because of party divisions, the message even there has had to be one of studied opacity. No wonder the voters are determined to punish the Tories. They believe little of what comes out of ministers' mouths; and the words themselves are meagre enough.

## PERES BOMBS LEBANON

Israel's security and its Prime Minister's election

The war between Israel and Hezbollah, the armed, extremist Shia organisation based in Lebanon, took a grave and bloody turn yesterday. Israeli warplanes bombed Beirut for the second time in 24 hours, as well as pounding several villages in the war-torn Bekaa valley. Among the dead were members of Hezbollah and a number of innocent civilians. Disturbingly, 12 Syrian army soldiers were reported also to have been wounded, some critically.

This vicious little war, which predates the Oslo accords, and which has been slowed not at all by the Arab-Israeli peace process, continues to sap Israeli morale by its relentless, attritional character. Counter-attack, in the region's well-worn manner, swiftly followed attack, and the conflict has now acquired a more intense complexion than even most Israelis feared. Deaths, injuries, the evacuation of civilians, the destruction of property and the disruption of commercial life have now occurred on both sides of the border. And Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, has given warning that the attacks on "Hezbollah positions" in Lebanon are not about to cease.

Why has Israel acted in this way? Why did Mr Peres authorise the first direct Israeli attack on Beirut for 14 years? There are two explanations: the first is that the steady increase in the intensity of rocket attacks by Hezbollah on northern Israel could not have gone unanswered; and the second, simply, is that Mr Peres faces the Israeli public in a general election within a few weeks.

The second fact is not unrelated to the first: Mr Peres has always had a reputation in his own country as a leader "soft" on security. This reputation is, of course, baseless. Yet the smear is an old one and Mr Peres has had to spend much time, in the

run-up to the elections, cleansing his name of it. A failure to respond to the Katsuya attacks by Hezbollah — mainly on electorally-sensitive border towns like Kiryat Shmona — would have played straight into the hands of Benjamin Netanyahu and the Likud opposition. In any case, the rocket attacks had begun to acquire disagreeable proportions: Mr Peres would have been correct, even in a non-electoral climate, to adopt a muscular response.

The affair, however, has another dimension, one which illustrates clearly the Israeli Prime Minister's dilemma. The missing element in the Middle East peace is an accord between Israel and Syria: this accord, it has so far been assumed, will deliver the occupied Golan Heights to Syria in exchange for cast-iron guarantees of non-aggression from Damascus. These guarantees, it has also been assumed, would include the end of the war with Hezbollah.

Yesterday's stepping-up of the border war, however, has made peace with Syria increasingly improbable. Ominously, it may also have marked a further stage in Hezbollah's graduation from Syrian puppet to independent menace. The last few months have seen a decline in Syrian control over the Shia organisation: the bombing of Beirut, with its accompanying inflammation of Lebanese nationalism, will only enhance Hezbollah's self-portrait as the guardian of Lebanese sovereignty.

Mr Peres faces a delicate equation: he must hit back at Hezbollah or risk losing votes in the forthcoming election. But he must not use force in such a way as to put in peril a prospective peace with Syria. How he balances these two factors will be a test of his statesmanship. But excess here, clearly, would be the enemy of success.

## MONTREZ VOS BILLETS

It is no longer 'tickets please' on Network SouthCentral

At least this time the French will have a station to remind them of an historic victory, rather than a terminus for ever associated with the end of Napoleonic gloire. Hastings, conquered yesterday by a transport subsidiary of Generale des Eaux, will surely take pride of place among the south coast stations that are now part of the French-owned rail network. The London & South Coast rail franchise. The French connection, luckily, does not reach Waterloo: that prize eluded the acquisitive utility company in the first franchising round. Instead, the railway will operate from three London stations: Victoria, London Bridge and Charing Cross, the last having a happy French ring to it as the name reputedly comes from "chère reine", the beloved Queen Eleanor commemorated with crosses around the country.

Passengers to cosmopolitan Brighton may now be hoping for a dash of Gallic charm and cuisine on their daily commute. Will croissants and fresh coffee replace the fading whiff of kippers? Will there be railway hostesses in chic Parisian fashions, wine-tasting in the buffets, beakers full of the warm South as the commuters approach Norwood Junction?

Alas, such dreams founder on the drab realities of rail franchising. There will be few trains à grande vitesse on the lines to Kent, Sussex and Surrey: the L&SC will be a faint echo of the mighty London, Brighton and Chichester now bear the names of Jeanne d'Arc, Molière and de Gaulle! And will commuters, arriving at a revamped gallicised Victoria remark: "C'est magnifique, mais ce n'est pas la gare."

I studied and greatly enjoyed 17th-century Dutch masters when at school and have been to Holland several times to continue the pleasure. The quality of light and simple domestic side of Vermeer's work have always appealed to me.

As Mr Jenkins says, not a great deal is known about Vermeer — but why the constant need to search and invent, when we are left with such a legacy? Surely these pictures, with all their charm and serenity, say all that we need to know?

Yours sincerely,  
ROBINA COOKE,  
Llanerch Frochwell,  
Welshpool, Powys.  
April 8.

## Social change and scratchcard games

From the Director General of the National Lottery

Sir, It is disappointing that you chose to give credence in your report of April 10, to allegations from the Directorate of Social Change (DSC) that Ofot had failed to carry out appropriate research on National Lottery spending patterns. Despite what the authors of *The National Lottery Yearbook* may claim, the facts are rather different.

My office has conducted research using four different organisations over the last ten months. One of those bodies, National Opinion Polls, has now carried out seven separate surveys on scratchcard purchases. We began this work within four months of the first scratchcard game being launched.

The DSC is well aware of our work in this area. Indeed, we sent them a detailed report on our social-research programme in February.

For the record, I would like to make it clear that there is no evidence from my research that scratchcards have caused excessive participation in the UK. Nor has it shown that they have created damaging social effects. I am, of course, continuing to monitor the situation closely. Should circumstances require it, I will not hesitate to take whatever action is necessary to carry out my statutory responsibilities.

On a separate point, the DSC suggests that Ofot should prosecute retailers who sell National Lottery tickets to those under 16. I report all such incidents to the relevant police force. If the DSC had checked the legislation it would have known that we are not empowered to mount such prosecutions.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER A. DAVIS,  
Director General,  
Office of the National Lottery,  
2 Monck Street, SW1.  
April 10.

From Mr Irving Luke

Sir, The distribution of lottery cash to worthy causes remains a contentious issue. The solution is obvious ... decide by lottery.

Yours etc.  
IRVING LUKE,  
44 Fairfax Road, NW6.  
April 11.

## Tory blues

From Dr R. K. Knight

Sir, Three hundred years ago the Tories lost the seat at Tamworth, Staffordshire, to Thomas Guy.

One would like to think that Mr Guy, who sat as the Whig MP from 1695 to 1707, is looking down with satisfaction at the by-election result (report, later editions, April 12). He would certainly be very angry with the present Government, which is trying to destroy the hospital he founded and endowed.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT KNIGHT,  
Keats House,  
Guy's Hospital,  
St Thomas Street, SE1.  
April 12.

From Mr M. J. Slater

Sir, In his article, "Beware a slaughter too far" (April 11), Nicholas Badger refers to rough shooting and states: "I don't want to stop anyone else shooting but I do not want to shoot myself."

In the light of the news today from Staffordshire South East this will be a relief to John Major and the Conservative Party.

Yours faithfully,  
M. J. SLATER,  
Leycroft, Barnton Loan, Edinburgh.  
April 12.

## Genius of Vermeer

From Mrs Robina Cooke

Sir, I would like to thank Simon Jenkins for his refreshing article, "The cleansing of Vermeer" (April 6).

I studied and greatly enjoyed 17th-century Dutch masters when at school and have been to Holland several times to continue the pleasure. The quality of light and simple domestic side of Vermeer's work have always appealed to me.

As Mr Jenkins says, not a great deal is known about Vermeer — but why the constant need to search and invent, when we are left with such a legacy? Surely these pictures, with all their charm and serenity, say all that we need to know?

Yours sincerely,  
ROBINA COOKE,  
Llanerch Frochwell,  
Welshpool, Powys.  
April 8.

## Time warp

From Mrs F. H. Cave

Sir, I recently discovered what appears to be a grave problem with digital clocks.

How do you explain to a child who says she woke up one morning at "eight dot dot two four", that she could find the comet at 10 o'clock from the Pole Star?

Yours faithfully,  
FREDA H. CAVE,  
86 Summerlands Park Avenue,  
Ilminster, Somerset.  
April 7.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Vocal objections to Mary Stuart

From Lady Antonia Fraser

Sir, The Friends of Mary Queen of Scots, if such an association existed (and why not?), would like me to point out that she actually spoke English with a Scottish accent, not a French one (letter, April 12).

Queen Mary spent the first six years of her life speaking Scots, not French. When she went to France in July 1548 she was far from being cut off from Scots-speakers. She took with her numerous Scottish attendants, such as her nurse Jean Sinclair, her governess Lady Fleming, and a train of children of the Scottish nobility, including the girls known as the Four Maries.

As result Queen Mary was still able to speak Scots fluently when she returned to her native country 13 years later; both the English ambassador and the papal envoy mention the fact that it was her preferred language.

When Mary Queen of Scots fled to England — and captivity — in 1568 she began painfully to learn English from her first captor, at Bolsover Castle.

Of course there is nothing wrong with the casting of a distinguished French actress to play the part of Schiller's *Mary Stuart* to signify her "French-ness" (although by the time Schiller's play takes place Queen Mary had spent far more time in England than she had in France). Schiller

takes liberties with history: so why should not a director?

Isabelle Huppert's beauty and grace on stage did the character of Mary Queen of Scots proud. It is true that her comprehensibility on the press night was virtually nil, leaving all the lines, not only the best lines, for Anna Massey's virtuous Elizabeth I. But then the Friends of Mary Queen of Scots are well used to the contest being rigged in favour of the English Queen ...

Yours sincerely,  
ANTONIA FRASER,  
52 Campden Hill Square, W8.  
April 12.

From Sir Rowland Whitehead

Sir, Miss Sandy Carlier is quite right: my wife and I understand not a word of Isabelle Huppert's lines in the National Theatre's production of *Mary Stuart*.

If the actors depicted "real life" then surely they, too, would not have understood her and we should have heard them say, "Eh?", "What's that?", "Come again?" or suchlike. But we didn't.

Yours sincerely,  
ROWLAND WHITEHEAD,  
Sutton House,  
Chiswick Mall, W4.  
April 12.

## A few factors to feel good about

From Miss Cordelia H. J. Hime

Sir, I am bored with hearing Labour trying to worry people about job insecurity, taxation and living standards. Inflation, the key to securing economic growth that will last and ending the days of "boom and bust", has been below 4 per cent for longer than at any time in the last 50 years.

Unemployment is lower than in any other major European country. The proportion of national income taken by the State is lessening, allowing us to spend or save as we wish.

Many of the burdens on business have been swept away. Cutting red tape and state interference helps business and industry to generate the wealth that makes Britain a more prosperous place.

The benefits of careful management by a Conservative government are clear. Only the Conservatives can build on Britain's success to create a nation of opportunity in the next millennium.

Yours faithfully,  
CORDELIA HIME,  
(Committee member,  
Putney Conservative Association),  
Field House, 248 Dover House Road,  
Roehampton, SW15.  
April 12.

## Conflict in Liberia

From the Africa Director of Save the Children

Sir, Contrary to any impression that your readers may gain from a news report in your latest edition today, Save the Children intends to stay in Monrovia and not to abandon Liberians in an hour of desperate need. We will be attempting to bear witness to what is happening, to give whatever humanitarian assistance we can and to restart full aid operations at the earliest opportunity.

We cannot do this alone. It is vital that a larger international presence should remain. Your leading article today puts the onus on the United States: but the United Nations as a whole must maintain an effective presence, as the secretary-general has urged.

For five years the UN has sat on the sidelines, sanctioning an experiment in regional peacekeeping whose record has been dubious at best. This is not good enough. With Liberians now

facing a double emergency — hunger and need in the countryside, violent disruption in the capital — the UN at all levels, from field representatives of the key humanitarian agencies up to the Security Council, must re-engage with Liberia.

A political resolution must be found, aid operations must be supported, and the monitoring force (Ecology) mounted by the Economic Community of West African States needs to be reconstructed, to protect the population, the aid community and the strategic points of the city.

British influence can be particularly significant, as a major funder of Ecology, as an important link to regional powers including Nigeria and Ghana, as a member of the European Union which is the biggest aid provider, and as a member of the Security Council.

Yours faithfully,  
MARK R. BOWDEN  
(Africa Director),  
Save the Children Fund,  
17 Grove Lane, SES.  
April 11.

## Alternative medicine

From Earl Baldwin of Bewdley

Sir, The implied argument in Nigella Lawson's article about complementary medicine ("Don't grow old, grow up", April 3) that non-conventional equals New Age equals quackery has little good evidence to support it but then, as she admits, she has "little in the way of evidence to bring to bear".

New Age is in any case a strange term to apply to a body of medicine which includes such well-established disciplines as acupuncture, homoeopathy, healing, chiropractic and osteopathy which are used extensively and

to patients' satisfaction for such conditions as hypertension, asthma, back pain, stress, depression and cancer.

Further, no treatment can of itself be "unscientific" as she describes "alternative" medicine: it either works or it doesn't. If does it work it is the job of science to discover why, which may involve rearranging some cherished dogmas.

Yours faithfully,  
BALDWIN OF BEWDLEY  
(Joint Chairman, Parliamentary



THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

## OBITUARIES

## VICE-ADMIRAL JOHN BULKELEY

Vice-Admiral John Bulkeley, United States Navy, wartime PT Boat commander, died on April 6 aged 84. He was born in New York on August 19, 1911.

ONE the US Navy's most decorated veterans of the Second World War, John Bulkeley was the quintessential PT Boat man, the exploits of whose squadron in the Philippines in 1942 were memorably described in W. L. White's book *They Were Expatriate* (1942) and later re-enacted by Robert Montgomery and John Wayne in John Ford's classic film of the same name. Perhaps Bulkeley's most notable mark on events was his evacuation in March 1942 of General Douglas MacArthur from Corregidor to unoccupied Mindanao, from where he and his party were airlifted in two Flying Fortresses to safety in Australia. It was on landing that MacArthur, with his flair for public relations, made his famous "I will return" declaration. In those dark hours, such an eventuality seemed remote; but MacArthur was to discharge his promise when he came ashore again in the Philippines early in 1945.

But for Bulkeley and his six-boat squadron this was actually merely one episode in five months of constant action against the Japanese. In the dreadful months of early 1942, when Allied land, sea and air power seemed doomed to be swept from the Pacific theatre by the Japanese onslaught, the fast Patrol Torpedo Boats were involved in some desperately bravely actions against much superior forces.

Graduating from the Annapolis Naval Academy in 1933, Bulkeley was a young lieutenant in the Pacific Fleet at the time of the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941. Commanding a group of PT boats, he took part in the defence of the Philippines against the Japanese.

The fall of the islands was a painful episode in the life of the American Caesar, General of the Army Douglas MacArthur. Despite improvisation, great courage and some reinforcements, muddle and indecision allowed Japanese air power a free hand in wiping out Clark Field as well as other American airfields and bases. Nevertheless the Japanese assault was resisted for far longer in the Philippines than anywhere else in the Pacific and South-East Asia theatre: Corregidor actually held out until May 1942. Although perceived as a severe blow at the time, the five-month defence of the islands had badly disrupted the Japanese timetable, since General Horatio had been allocated only 30 days to complete the campaign (Malaya and Singapore had been conquered in two months). By the time it fell, the US Navy was almost ready to go on to the counter-offensive, and the Japanese were soon to experience the reverses of the Coral Sea and Midway.

During the struggle for the Philippines, President Roosevelt repeatedly ordered MacArthur to turn his command over to General Wainwright and



"Well, I'm home": General MacArthur in April 1945 on Corregidor from where he had been evacuated by Bulkeley, left, in 1942

leave, in order to be available to take charge of the build-up and retaliation. It was like ordering a captain to be the first to leave a sinking ship: MacArthur, with his strong West Point notions of honour, had pledged himself to die with his men.

Nevertheless he was eventually persuaded, and with the naval C-in-C, Admiral Chester Nimitz, and their brilliant galaxy of subordinates, MacArthur subsequently planned and executed what informed commentators judge to be the most strategically inspired campaign in history — the defeat of Japan in the Pacific.

Bulkeley had already distinguished himself in a number of actions against invasion shipping off Bataan, all of which were conducted in circumstances of the greatest difficulty. His squadron's supply base had been completely destroyed in the Japanese bombing raid on Cavite on December 10, 1941, and they were left without spare engines. Ammunition for the PT Boats' 50-inch machine-guns had to be scavenged from whatever units — army, navy, marines or air force — could be persuaded to part with it. In addition, all its 100 octane fuel had been adulterated with a wax by a pro-Japanese saboteur, so that the boats' carburetors and filters needed to be cleaned after two hours' running.

Without any shore backup all mechanical and electrical repairs and maintenance had to be done by the officers and men of the squadron in isolated, mosquito-infested inlets, frequently under sudden and violent enemy air attack. It was a tribute to Bulkeley's courage and to his engineering background that his boats continued not only to function but to fight and cause severe harassment to the invasion forces.

MacArthur himself described the bearded and swashbuckling PT Boat commander as "Johnny Bulkeley, that bold buckaroo with the cold green eyes". By contrast, Bulkeley remembered MacArthur on the embarkation quayside at Corregidor, looking emaciated in his worn khaki, his face deadly white, and a nervous twitch at the corner of the mouth.

The passage from Corregidor to

Mindanao was made in very rough weather, in which it was vital to anticipate and avoid Japanese warships and aircraft. All the party were very seasick. But three of Bulkeley's four PT Boats survived the passage through 600 miles of enemy-held waters, in spite of the fact that their speed was much diminished by their makeshift engine maintenance and lack of spare parts.

For his service in the defence of the Philippines, Bulkeley was awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor, the nation's highest military decoration. In 1943 he played his part in breaking through the barrier of the Bismarck Archipelago and the invasion of New Guinea, shooting up Japanese supply convoys and strafing shore installations.

On one occasion, he sent a boarding party in old navy style to capture a ship that would not sink.

Moving to the European theatre in 1944, Bulkeley, now a lieutenant-commander, took part in the invasion of Normandy, where he commanded a group of PT Boats and minesweepers in support of the landings at Utah Beach. Later in June, when the forts on the *digue*, the big outer breakwater of Cherbourg harbour, were proving obstinate, he took PT-510 with PT-521 in company to try and quell them with machine-gun fire. From ranges as close as 150 yards and drawing a deluge of 88-mm shells down in its vicinity, Bulkeley's boat had to circle the damaged PT-521, laying a smokescreen while repairs were made. Next day, the fort eventually capitulated after repeated bombing by aircraft.

Bulkeley's next action was in support of Operation Dragoon, the Allied invasion of southern France in August 1944. Commanding the destroyer *Endicott* and the British gunboats *Aphis* and *Scorab* with a number of PT boats, he controlled the Western Diversionary Group.

(His opposite number in the Eastern Diversionary Group was a certain Lieutenant-Commander Douglas Fairbanks Jr.) While bombarding the coast near La Ciotat in order to mislead the enemy about the real invasion point, *Endicott* intercepted and sank the German ships *Caprilia* and *Ninet Allah*, the first an ex-Italian corvette and the second a former Egyptian armed yacht. After this action Bulkeley's force rescued 200 survivors.

Bulkeley's other awards included the Navy Cross, two Army Distinguished Service Crosses, a Distinguished Service Medal, two Silver Stars, two Legion of Merit awards and the Purple Heart.

In 1961 President Kennedy (who had been a PT Boat officer junior to Bulkeley in the Pacific) appointed him commanding officer of the Guantanamo base in Cuba. It was during the period of rising tension that was later to culminate in the missile crisis of October 1962.

Fidel Castro tried to get the US to abandon the base by, among other measures, building machine-gun positions overlooking the perimeter and shutting off the fresh water supply. Bulkeley told reporters that the machine-gun emplacements were useless and referred to them as "Cuban landscaping". When subsequently Castro offered to turn the water back on for half an hour each day, Bulkeley told him not to bother — he had already made other arrangements.

Bulkeley originally retired from the Navy in 1974 as president of the Navy Board of Inspection and Survey, but was later retained on active duty and continued in that position until 1988, having completed 55 years' naval service.

He is survived by his wife Hilda and their five children.

## DARIO BELLEZZA

Dario Bellezza, Italian poet and novelist, died of an Aids-related disease in Rome on March 31 aged 51. He was born in 1944.

"BOYS, literature, cats" — these were the self avowed loves of Dario Bellezza, who in both verse and prose explored the often desperate and squalid lives of young homosexuals, preying or being preyed upon, on the streets of Rome. Like the heterosexual Alberto Moravia, whom he first admired and later castigated as "bourgeois", the city of Rome and the ceaseless trade in human flesh piled on its pavements is in the very sinews of his work. But unlike Moravia, and instead like Pier Paolo Pasolini, whose fate — sordidly battered to death by a reluctant pick-up in a Rome parking lot — he managed to avoid, the homosexual component of that trade is germane. For Pasolini, Bellezza was simply "il miglior poeta".

Bellezza gained an entry into literary life when, on impulse on a day in 1965, he knocked on the door of the writer Enzo Siciliano, brandishing a typescript. Profoundly impressed by what he read, Siciliano introduced the young writer to the novelist Elsa Morante (who was for a time the wife of Alberto Moravia) and later to Moravia himself. Later he met Pasolini. These introductions opened the pages of Moravia's periodical *Nuovi Argomenti* to him, and it was there that his first, highly explicit, poems were published.

There was something self-consciously "naughty" about these, with their use of the Italian equivalents of four-letter words to describe Bellezza's amorous experiences. Yet when Bellezza's first novel, *L'innocenza* (*Innocence*) was published in 1970, it surprised readers by the chaste and restraint of its language. Nino, a 15-year-old Calvinist boy, comes home from boarding school to find that his only relatives, three aunts, have disappeared. From then on he is left to wander through a Rome whose streets and piazzas have taken on the surreal quality of one of de Chirico's urban landscapes.

The influence of both Moravia and Pasolini could be seen in this. Indeed, to the self contradictory mind of Pasolini [known for too exclusively in this country for his notoriety as the maker of films such as *I 120 Giorni di Sodoma*, and for his provoking poetry and novels] Bellezza's



work, steeped as it was in teasing paradoxes, was particularly congenial. And yet it was the Peruvian poet Sandro Penna, whose taste for biting, malicious gossip he shared, with whom he had the greatest affinity. Like Penna, too, he preferred the company of his *fanciulli* (adolescents) to that of writers and critics.

*L'innocenza* was followed by *Lettere da Sodoma* (1972, Letters from Sodom), again a carefully crafted and obviously literary performance.

Bellezza's first collection of poems was *Invertive e Licence* (1971, Invertives and Lasciviousness), a volume which immediately set him apart from most of his contemporaries. In marked contrast with what is recklessly suggested by the title, the tone is one of almost Calvinistic moral severity.

Nevertheless, Bellezza's plain, unadorned words, explore an abyss of spiritual suffering. The following is characteristic:

*Di! Non attendo che la morte.  
Ignoro il corso della storia.  
So solo  
la bestia che è in me e latra*

(God! I only wait for death.  
I am ignorant of the course of history. I know only the beast which is in me and barks.)

When Bellezza published his next novel *Il carnefice* (The Executioner) in 1973, critics were aware of a greater simplicity and directness in his approach. The work appeared to have gained from the greater freedom of his poetry, and turned its back on the conscious polish of the earlier novels. In its claustrophobic, self-indulgent eroticism it invited comparison with the *Cena Trimalchionis* of Petronius, although the geniality and good humour of the latter was never one of Bellezza's forte.

*Il carnefice* presented a garish and compelling — if morbidly Kafkaesque — account of a world populated by drug addicts and slaves to sensuality. Yet in keeping with Bellezza's early, innate Calvinism, the characters in the book are persecuted by two mysterious moral agents, executioners who represent the *carnifex* of the title.

If, unlike Penna or Cavafy (the greatest of the century's homosexual poets), Bellezza failed to transcend his own sado-machochistic world, within his genre he was undoubtedly a complex and haunted writer.

Certainly he never sought to glorify either his lifestyle or his condition. A few days before his death, he said of his fate: "Il mio Aids, punizione di Dio."

## PEARL PLEYDELL-BOUVERIE

Pearl Pleydell-Bouverie, mother of Lord Montagu of Beaufort, died on April 10 aged 101. She was born on January 4, 1895.

PEARL PLEYDELL-BOUVERIE was the widow of the 2nd Lord Montagu of Beaufort. Her first husband was thirty years her senior and, when he died in 1929, left his young widow to run a large estate, as well as bring up a young family single-handed. She rose to the challenge magnificently.

She also, from the age of ten, kept a diary, noting down her impressions of two world wars, numerous foreign trips and her life as stewardess of Beaufort with a mercurial and witty eye. This meant that much later in life, she was "discovered" by historians. Earlier this year, she could be seen in a recent television interview, sitting bolt upright and discussing very fluently

the hazards of the early days of motoring.

Alice Pearl Crake was the daughter of a major in the Rifle Brigade. One of her earliest memories was as a five-year-old, waving a tiny Union Jack to celebrate the relief of Mafeking. Her father died when she was young, and she was brought up, as a result, to be more sensible of financial matters than some of her peers. While her friends were visiting couturiers in Paris, she found a local dressmaker to copy the fashions. She was educated at private school in London and came out in 1913. She was ignorant of world politics as a girl having led, in her words, a "spoil" life. But she recorded in her diary the following year reading the "sad" news that Archduke Francis Ferdinand had been assassinated.

The war changed her life irreversibly as friend after friend was killed. One of these

was Harry Cubitt, eldest son of Lord and Lady Ashcombe, to whom she was unofficially engaged, and who fell on the Somme. At the beginning of the war, Pearl was living with her aunt and uncle at Craghorne Hall in Yorkshire. Their house was turned into a convalescent home and Pearl, as a VAD, helped to make the beds and to prepare food for the soldiers. One day she saw from her window a zeppelin being shot down in the sea off Hartlepool. Later in the war she returned to London and found work as a filing clerk in the War Office working in Intelligence.

In 1920 she visited the South of France with her mother, and there met her first husband, the recently-widowed 2nd Lord Montagu of Beaufort, who was staying in the same hotel. She became his second wife in August that year at St Margaret's, Westminster.

The second baron was a motoring enthusiast and actively involved, through his seat in the House of Lords, with improving road conditions for cars. He drove his wife (who learnt to drive) in a Rolls-Royce across Europe, Persia and Palestine, and in 1922 over the frontier into India. This coincided with the visit of the Prince of Wales (the future King Edward VIII), and Pearl sat next to the Prince at dinner when she was staying with the Earl of Reading, then Vicere of India.

In England she became an accomplished hostess. She loved sailing (being the founder of the Beaulieu River Sailing Club in 1931) and raced during Cowes Week with King George V in his yacht *Britannia*. He presented her with a brooch to thank her. Queen Mary was not so enthusiastic about boats, and would spend time quietly away from the crowds.

She proved to be methodical and conscientious in all business dealings, and coped well, being aided by the high regard in which she was held by the local people. She could remember the names of all the families on the estate — not because she felt she ought, but because she was genuinely interested in other people's lives. In 1930 she succeeded her husband as a Beaufort church warden, and was still active in her post until last year. This made her — with 65 years' service — probably the longest serving warden in the Church of England.

In 1936 she married Captain the Hon. Edward Pleydell-Bouverie, brother of the 7th Earl of Radnor, whom she had met briefly in India in 1922.

During the war a son of the 7th Earl was killed in action, and Edward was appointed commander of the royal steam

## LONDON PUBLIC GARDENS.

When the area now being cleared in Milk Street is thrown into the Victoria Tower Gardens, it will form the finest accession to the open spaces of Central London since the beginning of the century. Par down the river in East London there is every hope that the desolate but splendidly situated waste of the Shadwell Fish Market will before long be transformed into another public garden as part of the King Edward Memorial scheme. Though the Shadwell area is already being developed, the Shadwell Park, it would be better named the King Edward Gardens; for when it is laid out it will possess some of the finest and most characteristic features of London public gardens, but less degree those of a park.

Through the names of park and gardens are applied rather indiscriminately to open spaces in London, especially those of middling size, there is an essential difference between them. Broadly speaking, parks are laid out in imitation of the country, while gardens deliberately include their London surroundings in their plan. Sometimes the country aspect of the parks is not so much imitated as preserved. The charms of Kensington Gardens — which are a true park, and not a

husband was at sea. The local hospital supply depot was stationed in her drawing room, and she found accommodation for young evacuees from the bombing of

During the war a number of houses on the estate were used by the SOE, and Beaufort was also used as the centre of local air-raid and Red Cross operations. Pearl Pleydell-Bouverie co-ordinated affairs while her son Edward was at sea. The local hospital supply depot was stationed in her drawing room, and she found accommodation for young evacuees from the bombing of

In 1951, a few months before she relinquished stewardship of the estate to her son Edward, her second husband died, and she moved to the Lodge on the Beaufort estate.

Pearl Pleydell-Bouverie is survived by three daughters and one son from her first marriage, and by her son from the second.

contour of the soil. Regent's Park forms a wide and gentle depression; the eye wanders freely from the edge of the flower walk, near the Zoological Gardens, to the banks of the lake and the trees about Hanover Gate. Hyde Park, on the other hand, gains its greatest sense of space from a slight convex bow as one crosses from the Serpentine to the Marble Arch.

These hints of distant solitude and seclusion are the more arresting for their paradoxical contrast with their surroundings, and all the rural aspect of the London parks has to pay a penalty for its attraction by challenging a fatal comparison with the genuine country. With the public gardens it is otherwise. They make the best of London, rather than attempt to avoid or conceal it; and by adding grass and trees and flowers, and supplying a refuge from the noise and pressure of traffic, they often make a singularly attractive and individual whole. No London public garden is a better example of its kind than that below Charing Cross Station; yet certainly there is none more in the very heart of London. A boy could throw a stone across it anywhere and yet its proportions give it a true sense of space. Close above it rise the great buildings of the Adelphi and the streets that run to Charing Cross; and the trains rumble in and out across the lofty bridge ...

## PERSONAL COLUMN

## SERVICES

ANNEKE STEPHEN, CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF STYLING, WEAR AND ACCESSORIES, CHIC, LONDON. 10TH JUNE 1996.

## SITUATIONS WANTED

GERALD ADAMSON (1979) seeks a nice family wedding dress for his wedding to Sophie on 27th June 1996. Tel: 0171-738 0000.

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

JOHN COOPER, 100 PORTLAND AVENUE, LONDON NW1 4JG, requires a double bass for his band. Tel: 0171-738 0000.

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## NEWS

## Right calls for change

John Major faced a fresh outbreak of unrest in the Tory party as right-wing MPs demanded a change of direction in the wake of a devastating by-election setback.

Hours after the Labour Party inflicted a stunning defeat in the Staffordshire South East by-election, senior Conservatives issued a warning of further electoral losses unless new policies were introduced swiftly. Pages 1, 9

## Thousands flee Israeli jets

Israeli helicopters and jets carried out a series of attacks on Beirut and other Lebanese towns and villages. Syria said one of its soldiers was killed and seven were seriously wounded at an air defence position in the Lebanese capital. Pages 1, II

## Teenager on run

A teenager accused of murder was on the run after escaping when a social worker took him to a swimming pool for a "mobility" programme. Page 1

## No change trains

Millions of commuters were condemned to travelling on 30-year-old "slam-door" trains for the foreseeable future by the new French owners. Page 2

## Royal challenge

Prince Edward challenged the belief that the Queen Mother harboured a grudge against the Duchess of Windsor. Page 3

## Parents warned

Schools are to be allowed to turn down pupils whose parents refuse to accept policies on discipline, said Gillian Shephard. Page 4

## Children at risk

Children who are involved in accidents are more likely to consider suicide. Page 6

## Working class and sure of it

John Prescott, Labour's deputy leader who told the BBC that he was "middle-class" was rebuked by his 85-year-old father. John Prescott said: "How can he be anything other than working class? John worked as a steward on ships serving drinks. If that's not working class I cannot think what is". Page 1

## Legal attack

The Lord Chief Justice launched a fresh attack on Michael Howard's sentencing proposals. Page 8

## Elgar letters

Letters by Edward Elgar, in which the composer discusses masterpieces such as *The Dream of Gerontius* are to be sold at auction. Page 10

## New Liberia crisis

A US task force was heading for Liberia during a complete breakdown of law and order. Page 13

## Time to die

A doctor in Darwin is about to launch a computer program that could soon become the Australian way of death. Page 12

## Girl pilot's death

The smiling face of Jessica Dubroff, who died in a crash while trying to become the youngest person to pilot a plane across America, adorned every US newspaper front page. Page 15



Tony Blair, the Labour Party leader, with President Clinton in the Oval Office yesterday during his visit to Washington. Page 1

## OPINION

**By-election blues:** No wonder voters are determined to punish the Tories. They believe little of what comes from ministers. Page 21

**Perso bombs Lebanon:** Mr Peres faces a delicate equation: he must hit back at Hezbollah or risk losing votes in the election. Page 21

## LETTERS

Vocal objections to Mary Stuart: social change and lottery hymns to travel with: "feel-good" factors: Tory blues: Vermeer: alternative medicine. Page 21

## COLUMNS

**Anneke Kletsas:** The first of six articles of the most detailed scrutiny of Labour policy ever undertaken. Page 20

**John Redwood:** The seats lost in by-elections in the last Parliament did not prove difficult to win back in the general election, but 1992 brought the majority down with a bump. Page 20

## OBITUARIES

**Vice-Admiral John Bulkeley:** PT boat commander; Dario Belafza, poet; Pearl Pleydell-Bouverie, mother of Lord Montagu. Page 23

## BUSINESS

Lloyd's is confident of lifting its settlement offer above £3 billion, enabling it to reduce the burden of losses that have fallen on names. Page 25

**Power:** Electricity shares were ahead driven by reports that the MMC is to clear PowerGen's £1.9 billion bid for Midland Electric and National Power's £2.8 billion bid for Southern. Page 25

**Markets:** The FT-SE 100 rose 22.6 to 3766.8. Sterling was unchanged at 83.6 from a fall from \$1.5137 to \$1.5112 and a rise from DM2.2719 to DM2.2731. Page 28

**Golf:** Corey Pavin set the early pace in the second round of the Masters with a six-under-par 66. Page 48

**Rugby union:** Vernon Pugh, chairman of the International Board, is prepared to mediate in the dispute between the Rugby Football Union and the senior clubs. Page 48

**Cricket:** The Test and County Cricket Board have decided to take no action against Devon Malcolm over his management criticism. Page 19

**CAR 98:** Handling the Dodge Ram

**SOFTS:** Let's resuscitate the British circus. Richard Morrison writes

**Allen at war:** Martin Sherman's *Some Sunday Day*, deposits an alien into wartime Cairo. Page 17

**Sold Daze:** Julian Slade will see his hit musical revived in the West End on the 42nd anniversary of its first night. Page 19

**Below age:** Iain Robison, Britain's newest film star, is so young that, at 14, he is not allowed to see *Small Faces*. Page 19

## MAGAZINE

**Martial:** The future of action movies. Page 1

**Fashion:** 40 pages of sizzling summer looks for every hot male. Page 1

## WEEKEND

**Baby bistro:** A culinary French revolution. Page 1



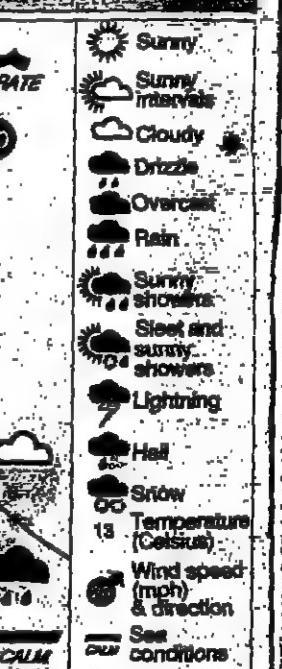
**Paul Heiney:** How I intend to make real food. Page 3

**Books:** Denis; middle-class adultery. Page 10



**Gaby Roslin:** Her new chat show. Ch 4, 9pm

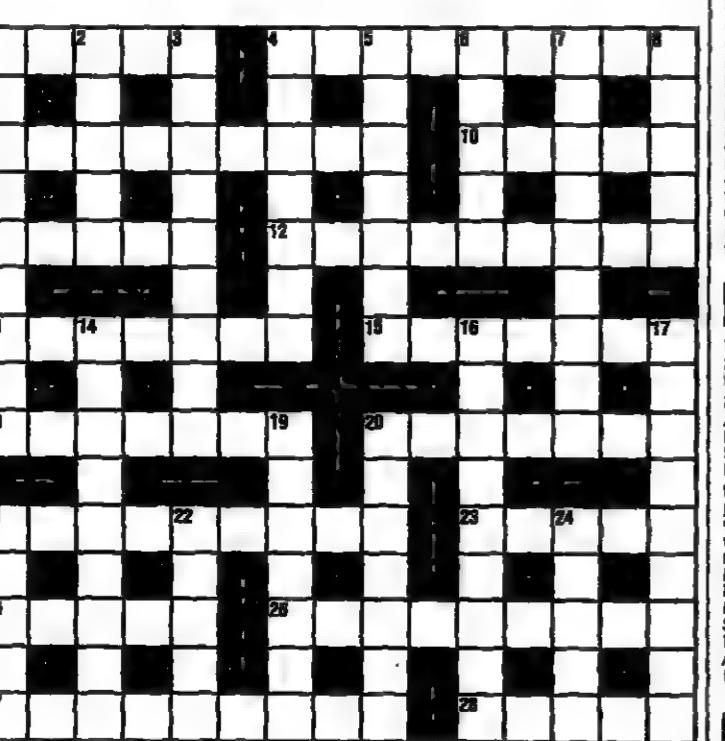
**Film of the week:** *A Passage to India*. Today, BBC2, 4.10pm



## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,141

**ABERLOUR** A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



## TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest regional forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code:

Greater London	701
Kent, Surrey, Sussex	702
South East England	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wiltshire, Gloucestershire, Herefordshire	705
Berkshire, Bucks, Oxfordshire	706
Northants, Warwickshire, Leicestershire	707
Moray, Scottish Borders, Central Belt	708
West Mid & Shropshire, Gwent & Glamorgan	709
Shropshire, Hereford & Worcester	710
Cardiff, Mid Wales	711
Lincs & Humberside	712
Dyfed & Powys	713
Gwynedd & Clwyd	714
North & South Wales	715
N & S Yorks & Derbyshire	716
N E England	717
Cumbria & Lake District	718
S W Scotland	719
Wales, Monmouthshire, Gwent & Borders	720
E Central Scotland	721
Grampian & Highlands	722
N Scotland	723
Orkney & Shetland	724
Ireland	725
Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times	726

## LA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadshow information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by the code:

London & SE England, roadshows	731
Area within M25	732
Area outside M25/M40/M5	733
Ken/Surrey/Sussex/Herts	734
M25 London Orbital only	735
National traffic and roadworks	736
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Midlands	739
East Anglia	740
North-West England	741
North-East England	742
Scotland	743
Northern Ireland	744
AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute all other times	745

## HOURS OF DARKNESS

**TODAY**

Sun rises: 6.07 am	Sun sets: 7.54 pm
Moon sets: 3.56 am	Moon rises: 4.24 pm

New Moon April 17

London 7.54 pm to 6.07 am	Bristol 6.04 pm to 6.17 am
Edinburgh 6.18 pm to 6.03 am	Manchester 6.07 pm to 6.11 am
Penzance 6.13 pm to 6.29 am	

## HIGH RIDES

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	9.32	6.0	9.59	6.0
London Eye	9.30	6.0	9.57	6.0
Blackfriars	2.38	10.4	3.24	10.8
Belfast	9.30	3.1	9.57	3.1
Cardiff	2.41	8.7	3.18	10.0
Derbyport	1.07	4.5	1.24	4.7
Dover	7.12	3.6	7.41	5.7
Dublin (H Walk)	7.25	3.6	7.48	5.7
Farnham	4.4	1.8	4.58	2.3
Gateshead	10.20	2.0	10.28	2.0
Harrow	7.23	3.6	7.57	3.2
Holyhead	6.08	4.8	7.03	4.7
Hull (Albert D)	2.00	6.1	2.10	6.2
Leeds	7.23	3.6	7.58	3.5
King's Lynn	1.56	5.5	1.59	5.5
Louth	10.16	4.7	11.13	4.8
Liverpool	7.31	5.0	7.43	5.0
London	1.07	4.5	1.24	4.7
Margate	7.29	4.1	8.17	4.0
Milano Haven	1.51	5.6	2.07	5.0
Newquay	0.56	5.7	1.37	5.6
Nottingham	2.02	5.6	2.05	5.6
Portsmouth	1.22	4.6	1.25	4.6
Portland	1.07	1.5	2.47	1.5
Portsmouth	7.02	3.9	7.50	4.2
Sheffield	7.05	5.0	7.48	5.3
Southampton	0.53	5.2	1.23	5.2
Swindon	1.32	7.7	2.28	7.8
Tees	11.59	4.5	12.00	4.5
Walton-on-Tees	7.25	3.6	7.49	3.5

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**Solution to Puzzle No 20,135**

**EMIRATE BUCKRAM** S S T I S R R E U  
PHOTO PROCESSOR E L L Y K P T A  
READER REMEDIAL A T I M S N N  
NIEGS HYDRANGEA T N O O N A  
OVERTHROW GOWER S E N G E O S  
CATCALLS ASSIGN A H L E A T G S  
THESPIANS USHER E A H V I R E O  
RETRACE AWARDED L A R I A T Y E A R N I N G  
LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: G C Dickinson, Teddington, Middlesex; A V Robin, Hertford, Surrey; C Vanstone, Mary Tavy, Devon.

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## FORECAST

**GENERAL:** Showery with some bright spells. England and Wales will have rain or sleet at times — mainly over hills — becoming lighter during the day. There may be snow over north Wales. Eastern counties of England should be drier and brighter, although it will be cold.

**SCOTLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND:** Will also be cold. Northern and eastern Scotland will have bright spells, and perhaps some wintry showers. Other areas will have more cloud and rain or sleet at times.

**ENGLAND:** Outbreaks of rain, becoming lighter and more patchy. Wind easterly, moderate. Rather cold. Max 10C (48F

SATURDAY APRIL 13

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WEEKEND

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# WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

## BABY BISTROS: THE NEW FRENCH REVOLUTION

by Kate Muir

This is not just a crisis — this is a revolution," announces Claude Lebey, France's equivalent of Egon Ronay. As with the last French revolution, blood must be split, and lined up before the guillotine are the aristocrats of cuisine, the grand chefs of Paris.

M Lebey, the Robespierre of gastronomy, is storming the *ancien régime* of restaurants stiff with etiquette and obscenely priced. He is leading the countercharge of the baby bistro — small restaurants opened in the 1990s by fine chefs — which are winning custom with their moderate prices and innovative cooking. While many of France's prestigious restaurants lie half-empty, the modern bistros have two-week waiting lists.

All around, the grand stars of the *Michelin Guide* are falling. Pierre Gagnaire's three-star restaurant in St Etienne was forced to close last month through lack of custom. La Tour d'Argent — a Paris landmark overlooking Notre Dame since 1582 — lost its third Michelin star last week. The chefs of La Tour d'Argent and the two-star Crillon are being investigated in a bribery scandal. Worst of all, the renowned Maxim's was demolished by the *Gault-Millau Paris Guide* from four toques (chef's hats) in its heyday to *none at all*.

Haute cuisine is suffering from a moulderling malaise. Food critics such as M Lebey say culinary excess and the days of "Let them eat cake" are over. The people have had enough cake and want bread, preferably wholemeal and at sensible prices.

M Lebey's guides to restaurants and bistros are to Paris what the *Zagat* guide is to New York — indispensable and direct — or the *Michelin Guide* in this country. M Lebey himself is very much a gentleman, prone to properly long socks and well-cut jackets. He operates from an office overlooking the Parc Monceau, supplied with fine paintings and strong espresso. He is, without doubt, a man of discerning tastes.

His words can seal a restaurant's fate, either way. His present philosophy is this: "There was a golden age of restaurants in France when people went to eat well without even thinking of the price. Now they have become money-conscious like the Americans, and today there is no place for restaurants costing £60 to £100 a head. A few of the great three-star restaurants costing about £130 pounds a head will survive, as not just a culinary but a dramatic experience like going to the theatre, but that's it."

The symbolic battleground of the revolution is Maxim's, probably Paris's — and the world's — most famous restaurant. It opened on the Rue Royale in 1893 to cater to hansom cab drivers waiting on the nearby Place de la Concorde. A waiter called Maxim took over the business and turned the restaurant into the essential schmoozing and dining place for the aristocracy and the demi-monde.

Maxim's Art Nouveau wood panelling, stained glass ceilings and inlaid brass clocks surround banquets previously occupied by Edward VII, Maria Callas (very fond of the pot-au-feu), the Duke and Duchess of Windsor (who ordered their game rare), Aristotle Onassis and Charlie Chaplin, the only man allowed entry without proper evening dress. The specialities were turtle

Continued on page 2, col 1



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## INSIDE STORY



IN: the relaxed L'Epi Dupin, and chef François Pasteau

Continued from page 1  
soup and Merry Widow pancakes.

Now those decadent days are over. M Lebey says: "Maxim's has lost its soul." In response, Maxim's brought in a new chef, but at 62 he was considered to be old blood rather than new.

At this point the battle became public, and rather violent. It was fought by means of open letter in the pages of *Le Figaro*. M Lebey struck the first blow in a letter to Pierre Cardin, fashion designer, logo salesman and owner of Maxim's: "If you want Maxim's to become, once again, a true Parisian institution, you must offer relatively classic, perfect cooking, with good wines at good prices, for £45 for lunch and £60 for dinner," prescribed M Lebey.

A scandalised M Cardin snapped back: "Maxim's will never become 'une gargon' — a rather grubby neighbourhood restaurant, with a steady daily clientele."

Maxim's makes it quite clear if you are the wrong sort of clientele, as we discovered last week. We got a reservation an hour before lunch with no trouble at all and, when we arrived, Maxim's was half empty. Of course, we had forgotten about the rules for proper dress — suits and ties. My companion did his best by borrowing my velvet scarf and wearing it cravat-style. The maître d' spotted his guilty manner immediately and blocked our way. "What sort of trousers, exactly, is Monsieur wearing?" he said, peering down at his khaki chinos. The trousers were rumpled, but not jeans, so they passed muster. He was not

Cover image by  
HUGH JOHNSON  
Stylist NATHALIE WELTON



OUT: the palatial Les Ambassadeurs. The new bons vivants want lower prices and less formal surroundings and are voting with their feet

town for the new bons vivants.

Many of France's two and three-star Michelin chefs anticipated this trend and started opening baby bistros. There are 19 in Paris alone, a few in the provinces, opened by celebrity chefs such as Michel Rostang, Jacques Cagna and Guy Savoy. The staffing costs are much cheaper, and the saving is passed to the customer.

**C**uriously, it is the same people that go to the baby bistro twice a week and occasionally to the grand restaurant which owns it. People who want to wear a cashmere pullover and jeans, not a suit, M Lebey says. He also acknowledges that today's customers are not merely intimidated but irritated by a flurry of servile men in tailcoats hovering at their table. "They prefer a convivial, relaxed atmosphere."

For roughly the price of the salad at Maxim's, I can have a three-course *prix fixe* dinner at my local bistro, L'Epi Dupin, while breathing and dressing freely. The menu there: fresh tagliatelle with salmon in basil and garlic; fillet of sea bream with mushrooms and virgin olive oil; soufflé crêpe with lemon flambé in vodka.

Indeed, M Lebey made L'Epi Dupin his bistro of the year, first in his new category of *les bistro modernes des cuisiniers malins* — bistros with smart, modern cooking. At under £40 a head and often half that, they are the boom

soul-searching debates in the press and protests by worried chefs under the Eiffel Tower. Even the culture minister, Philippe Douste-Blazy, has become involved, meeting M Gagnaire to discuss his three-star failure.

The problem is that the eating habits of the French have changed utterly over the past 30 years. In 1965, the average Frenchman spent two and a half hours at the table each day. Now he gobbles three meals in an hour and 20 minutes. No wonder the economic soufflé has collapsed, because the great restaurants are still catering for the past rather than the present.

Jean-Claude Vrinat of the three-star restaurant Taillevent admits: "Frankly, we have had things too easy for the past three decades. We have to understand that the good days were the exception, not the rule. The French superiority complex is over. Now is the time for people to begin striving again."

Naturally, this change in popular taste is not merely a crisis for restaurateurs, but for the French nation: *la gastronomie* is part of *la patrimonie* and taken most seriously. There have been

Insider's Guide to Paris  
page 21

## PARIS: WHAT'S IN AND WHAT'S OUT

## OUT

□ **Maxim's**  
Reminiscent of an expensive wine which turns out to be pretty ordinary when opened and full of sediment. Worth checking out the wonderful Art Nouveau decor if someone else is paying. Dress code draconian, food peasant. Clientèle past their prime.

3 Rue Royale (03 14 25 27 94).

□ **Les Ambassadeurs**

Palatial room overlooking the Place de la Concorde. This was where Claudia Schiffer and David Copperfield got engaged, but that hip moment has passed. There is a Fr340 (£45) lunch menu for the "poor" during the week. Foie gras with fig puree, lobster medallions: marinated veal slices with a sauce of asparagus and morel mushrooms. Gewürztraminer sorbet.

Hôtel de Crillon, 10 Place de la Concorde (03 14 71 16 16).

□ **La Tour d'Argent**

An institution more than a restaurant, with an incomparable view over the Seine to Notre Dame. For those (Japanese and Americans) who can still afford Fr1,000 (£133) a head, the menu is rich and old-fashioned: three emperors' foie gras, Tour d'Argent duck (cooked in blood); crêpes Belle Epoque. Has a fixed price lunch at Fr375 (£50). Lost its third Michelin star this year.

15-17 Quai de la Tournelle (03 14 34 23 31).

## IN

□ **L'Epi Dupin**

The Lebey Guide's bistro of the year, serving three courses and cheese for Fr153 (£20). Down a side street near the Bon Marché store and rather cramped. Book at least a week ahead, more for weekends, in order to experience the tuna pissaladière — the weird stuffed apple, sliced potato and stem ginger starter — and the chestnut crêpe soufflé.

11 Rue Dupin (03 14 22 64 56).

□ **L'Arpège**

Bagged its third Michelin star while everyone else was dropping them, this is a modern streamlined place. Main courses hit up to £30 apiece, but there is a fixed price lunch at Fr350 (£46). Sole stuffed with ginger; lamb with grapefruit zest and mint and sweet stuffed tomatoes for dessert. Service can be a little slow.

84 Rue de Varenne (03 14 51 47 33).

was an explosion of protestant cawing from the treetops at the sight of me, but the rooks are fairly safe up there. However, there was a mysterious report recently of rooks chasing off bats at dusk.

There have been some enormous rookeries in 1945, 6,985 nests were counted in a rookery at Hanon Castle, Aberdeenshire. Currently, the British rook population seems to be steady at about 850,000 pairs.

As for the jackdaws, with their curious pale grey eyes, they were still flying off from the field in couples. They have chosen their nest-sites in holes in old trees or buildings, but they will not lay for another few weeks. At present, when they are not foraging, they just sit together in close, tender-looking pairs.

## DERWENT MAY

• What's about: birders — listen for returning blackcaps singing in woods and gardens. Twitters — lesser scops at Tytherington Pits, Hertfordshire; lesser yellowlegs at Richmond Bank, Cheshire; sub-alpine warbler at Portland Bill, Dorset. Details from Birdline 089 700222. Calls cost 40p a minute, cheap rate, 50p at other times.

## IN THE MAGAZINE

Frances Bissell's recipes for bringing home the flavour of Paris PAGE 79

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Rambling Club Newsletters

## In the pecking order

## Feather report

IT WAS very agreeable the other morning to see the old-fashioned sight of some rooks and jackdaws feeding in a field with some cows. (Of course, it is the cow that is about to become the old-fashioned element.)

The rooks were walking about sedately, poking their beaks deep in the grass, while the jackdaws were moving more briskly, picking up insects that had been disturbed by the cows' feet.

The rooks were not quarrelling, but it is known that there is a "pecking order" in these rook flocks, which determines who gives way when two birds are after the same morsel. Large female rooks are particularly tough with smaller ones. Up to a point, this benefits the weaker bird as well as the stronger, because no time is wasted in squabbling.

In fact, there were probably very few female rooks in the field, because by now most of them are sitting on eggs. The males feed them on the nests, and there was a steady traffic of birds between the field and a rookery half a mile away. Actually all rooks look rather masculine, because they have loose feathers on their thighs like black-plus-four.

I wandered over to the rookery, in a mixed wood, with some of the nests in oaks, some in Scots pine trees. These



The rook: sedate

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Rambling Club Newsletters

In the pecking order

'Cooking is becoming a mimsy, neurotic, clinical business ... I want to make real food. Home-Made is my battle cry'

You have never seen a family as nervous as mine has been for the past six weeks. They jump when the phone rings, cower when the postman knocks, tremble at the sound of my car arriving. They go to the windows and peer anxiously for signs of upheaval.

It is understandable. They recall only too well the day, eight years ago, when I announced to a stunned household that I intended to become a farmer. Now that is over, they fear what will come next.

So did I — until recently. I had heard a rumour in the parish that I am taking the cloth. So I shall confess.

I am taking up the cloth — the dish-cloth. Also the pan, grater, mincer and whisk. Gone is the tweed and corduroy cladding; I have bought myself a crisp, white apron. I've had my fill of the great outdoors. I want to come inside and get warm; but not lose that heady sense of closeness to the sources of life in the raw.

The decision happened by accident in a shop near here which sells wood-burning stoves. In these unlikely surroundings Cupid raised his bow and I fell deeply in love with an iron maiden — a half-a-ton of

## Iron maiden has changed my life



PAUL HENRY

cast-iron vintage kitchen stove; coal-fired, black and adorable. Not a grand kitchen range of the kind Mrs Bridges used to curse, but smaller; more for a cottage than a country house.

On the left is what you might call the firebox, which is open-fronted to give a comforting view of the burning coals. Then there are bits that slide and deflect heat to either the hotplate or the oven.

The inside of the oven is hardly browned. I assumed from its fresh-from-the-factory gleam that the stove was a reproduction. "No," the shopkeeper said. "Just never been used."

It seems the stove had been put into a small cottage after the war for a newly married couple. The bride, however, took one look at it and declared: "That's going." It was boxed in as part of a false wall. Two decades later my treasure was rediscovered. She is a Virginal piece and, in the business of what Mrs B would call

"household management", so am I. But I know what I like and this stove — rejected by a woman — is going to help a man to achieve it.

I have this vision that one day we shall all sit round it and play happy families. It will probably be late on a Sunday afternoon in mid-winter after we have stoked the stove to crisp the Yorkshire pudding, have eaten our roast beef lunch and flaked out in front of the embers. Around teatime, someone will remember the tin of home-made crumpets. A rake around the grate to revitalise the coals and then we shall toast our crumpets and baste them lavishly with our own strawberry jam. Fancy? Not entirely. The flame of family life has flickered

somewhat in recent years and close observers notice that running parallel to the decline has been the erosion of the family meal. Now, you can blame that on the burger bar, the microwave or the frenzied needs of individuals confronted with more choices than they have ever had before. But you can also place some of the blame on the kitchens. As kitchens have become nothing more than the final stage on a production line of overprocessed food, or the scene of a bit of weekend show-off by trendy hobby cooks, they are increasingly desolate places. Is it any wonder that the cooking and carving of meat is in decline when the modern kitchen feels more like an

operating theatre? Cooking is becoming a mimsy, neurotic, clinical business. We have to think temperature, sell-by-date, instructions and nutrition values. The day is not far off when the supermarkets will be offering us complimentary pairs of rubber gloves so that we avoid "unnecessary contact" with the food.

**M**y kitchen will be different. The comforting presence of the stove will see to that. We shall eagerly spoon our plates of sago pudding until they are squeaky clean, then push our chairs back from the table and spend a few moments contemplating the flicker of the flames. Who knows, we might talk a little, too. We shall have no need of Muzak; the large black kettle will sing to us from the hob and the equally large black cat will purr.

As for the food, there are few cookery writers who come anywhere near ad-

dressing my needs. They seem to be driven by a desire to convince us that there is no difference between home and restaurant food. What is the point in that? I do not want to sit down at my own table and eat a Polenta, Oyster and Aubergine Mousse, any more than I need the Roux brothers to serve bacon, eggs and fried bread. We must restore home cooking to its rightful place at the pinnacle and not in the pedestal bin of fashion.

And I mean cooking. I do not mean that flimsy sort of cooking where we are invited to take a measly "half a skinless chicken breast and five drops of lime juice". I want to take raw, primitive, unpasteurised things with mud on them, and feathers. I want to make real food. Home-Made is my battle cry. My mind is turning over the possibility of jugged hare and juniper, military pudding, muligatawny or madeira cake.

I dare say there will be muttering from the family, but you may wish to follow my efforts week by week. If only to cut them out and stick them in a book to avoid ever after. I fear this week's recipe seems to be for Family Crumble.

## A blend of tastes to keep all the guests happy

### WORK ORDER

**Vegetarians and carnivorous bosses to dinner**  
Dinner for six, including two vegetarians  
Your two bosses are coming to dinner. One boss and her husband are vegetarians; the other boss and the rest of the guests are committed carnivores. This quick menu, cooked entirely after work, flatters everyone.

Feta and mint salad  
Roasted peppers stuffed with goats cheese or chicken

Apricot and amaretti pudding

**WORK ORDER**

■ Start red peppers  
Turn on oven to 190C/350F. Gas mark 4. Cut six red peppers in half through stems. De-seed. Put the pepper halves on a baking tray or oven-proof dish. Put two cherry tomatoes in each pepper. Put in oven and cook for 15 minutes.

■ Make apricot pudding

Pour a 600g (lb 6oz) jar apricot compote or 800g (lb 12oz) tinned apricots, drained, into a serving dish. Mix 500ml (18 fl oz) crème fraîche with 50g (2oz) sugar and 50ml (2 fl oz) sherry. Put on top of compote. Top with 100g (4oz) amaretti biscuits. Put in fridge.

■ Make salad

Roughly chop a handful of mint leaves and mix with 400g (14oz) prepared mixed salad in a salad bowl. Crumble 400g (14oz) feta cheese into roughly lcm cubes and put on the salad.

■ Finish red peppers

Cut 4 boned, skinned chicken breasts in half and 100g (4oz) goats cheese in four. Put a piece of chicken or cheese into the red peppers. Drizzle about a teaspoon of olive oil on each pepper. Season the chicken with salt and pepper and the cheese with just pepper. Put

back in the oven for 20 minutes. Poke a knife into chicken to check that the juices run clear and that it is cooked. Turn the oven down to a warming temperature (100C/200F, gas mark half) so the peppers keep warm but do not continue to cook. You may need to leave the door slightly ajar until the oven temperature drops.

**GUESTS ARRIVE**

■ Serve starter  
Squeeze half a lemon. Toss salad with lemon juice and 3tbs olive oil. Season with salt and pepper. Serve with a large loaf of French country bread.

Put a large pinch of salt in a large pan of water and put it on to boil.

■ After first course

As the salad plates are cleared, put 500g (lb 2oz) fresh tagliatelle and 300g (1lb) prepared sugar snap peas in the boiling water. Cook for four minutes.

Meanwhile, put two pepper halves on each plate. Roughly tear 6 basil leaves and put on each plate.

Drain pasta and peas. Toss together in a tablespoon of olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Put a serving of the mixed pasta and peas on each plate.

■ Serve pudding

Put pudding on table for guests to help themselves.

HATTIE ELLIS

### Chocolate Box

JOY MOORE's 1657 Chocolate House in Kendal, Cumbria, is the only chocolate house in England, *Alex Wieratwa writes*. Her drinking shop recreates the original 1657 chocolate house in Bishopsgate, London, chronicled by Samuel Pepys. In the 17th century, when chocolate was banned in papal lands and cocoa traders fled Europe for England, such houses sprang up in abundance. "The first chocolate houses in London traded in cocoa but later served liquid chocolate with sweet-tasting bread," says Mrs Moore. Couriers from King Charles II's palace soon made slipping chocolate the height of chic.

Today every morsel within Mrs Moore's wooden-beamed, converted cottage — from 39 different chocolate drinks, 89 types of truffles and praline, to a glazed chocolate "Highwayman" gateau — is English-made. She uses an old-fashioned whisking

machine to spin water through 68 per cent cocoa to create a cup of "Comteess" Castlemein — iced milk chocolate with ten drops of liquid ginger (£1.20). Voilet-flavoured "Queen's Corsage" is one of her most popular drinks. "Many of our recipes are authentic to the 17th century so I never use French, Belgian or Swiss chocolate," she says.

Mrs Moore serves 52 types of gateaux and petits gateaux. A slice of "Neil Gwynne" sponge cake, marinated in orange liqueur with fresh cream, topped with a ganache of milk chocolate, costs £1.89.

Besides tiny canapes (discs) and larger tablets of chocolate (five-ounce bars, £2.50), Mrs Moore sells 239 individual chocolates, which start at 36p. Her top-range 8lb chest of drawers costs £189.

• The 1657 Chocolate House, 54 Braithwaite Street, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 9XX (01539 740702). Mon-Sat 9.30am-5pm.

### III bread

FOR BIG bakers suffering from the crisis in the bread industry, salvation is sitting on the shelves. It lies in the "speciality bread" market and in persuading us to buy bread to accompany a meal rather than just use it for toast and sandwiches. Bung in a few sun-dried tomatoes or olives and, instead of getting 49p a loaf, you can charge £1.09.

Even neater is the fact that these fancy breads are smaller than the average small (400g) loaf. (Exactly how small consumers do not have to be told. If a loaf is under 300g the manufacturers need not state the weight.)

In my experience, most of the new speciality breads are lousy value. Floyd's onion focaccia, for instance (part of the new Floyd's Bread range from British Bakeries), is described on the pack as an "authentic speciality bread" with "the flavour to transport you to the rugged Tuscan hills". In fact it is an appalling combination of under-cooked onion and pappy bread that no Italian would give house room to — it weighs 290g and costs £1.19.

If you want to remind yourself what bread really tastes like, head for the newly opened London branch of De Gustibus. Until recently, its breads were available only to residents of Thame, near Oxford. The sourdough weighs in at 1,100g which, at £2.50, is a better ratio of crumb to the pound than

supermarkets offer. Most of the range costs even less. De Gustibus is at 53 Blandford Street, London W1 (0171-486 6608) and at Greyhound Walk, Thame (01844 214040).

**Ventreche? Eh?**

CONFUSION reigns in the culinary world as to the definition of ventreche — a sexy new ingredient that has popped up on the menu of Marco Pierre White's Criterion. Hesitating to arouse the great man's scorn by my ignorance of its correct pronunciation, I discover from his underling that it is not ham (as described on the menu) nor Italian (as I had assumed) but a superior kind of French bacon.

Eager to try some, I contacted the more superior charcuterie counters of London, ending up at the House of Albert Roux.

"Ow you spell zat?" asked the girl on the switchboard. "I geve you Roger, just a minute." Roger said they hadn't got any ventreche, but that basically it was the same as *poitrine fumée*, which they did stock. "Which part of France does it come from?" I ask? "Well, actually, from Northern Italy." "Rubbish," says chef's suppliers Cutty Catering. "It's not the same at all. Ours comes from a small

farm in the Pyrenees, where they cure their own sides of pork and pepper them." Personally, I'd stick to bacon.

### High tea

HIGHGROVE Breakfast Tea is one of 15 new food and household products with the Prince of Wales's imprint, including a range of teas from Fortnum & Mason, jams from Crabtree & Evelyn and

choices from Charbonnel et Walker. Fortnum's says each product has been approved by HRH and that a peppermint tea was included at his request. Peppermint tea, according to my book of Chinese medicine, is good for countering stomach gas.

### And avoid...

THE prize for the most pointless new product of the week

has to go to Tesco's Vegetarian Ploughman's Pâté. The idea is that you don't have to go to all that tedious trouble of cutting yourself a slice of cheese, breaking off a stick of celery and digging out a spoonful of pickle — it's all mixed in. The result is unspeakable.

FIONA BECKETT

Win a year's groceries, page 10

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## GARDENING

# Try two in a bed for double pleasure

Cross-breeding plants is easy and the results can be colourfully satisfying, says Stephen Anderton

I believe in arranged marriages for plants. Good things can be achieved by putting a beautiful couple in the same bed. If the union is blessed, the offspring will combine the finer attributes of each parent.

Of course, serious growers of roses and fruit will always stay with controlled artificial insemination, applying the pollen of one parent by hand to another to produce the required length of bud, disease resistance or keeping qualities. But there are many plants which will cross-breed with charming results just by being planted side by side in a bed. If they are fast breeders and can produce the next generation in a year or two, it matters less if the breeding is not accurately controlled.

Poppies are easy to cross-breed. Part of my vegetable patch is given over to the annual opium poppy, *Papaver somniferum*. The plants are mostly doubles, but nevertheless fertile, and splendidly promiscuous. From a forest of pale, grey-green succulent stems come masses of heavily double flowers of scarlet, crimson and darkest purple. They cut beautifully for indoors, but last only briefly.

The time to cut poppies is just as the drooping, fat, globular buds show a streak of colour along the side. Get them into a vase fast, or they will wilt. If the stems are long, first dip the bottom 2in-3in of

the stem into a pan of boiling water for a few seconds.

Poppies will last for a couple of days when in water, the heads gradually pulling upright the green halves of the buds splitting open to reveal a confusion of crumpled taffeta-like material — rather like a snake swallowing a flamenco dancer whole.

An open flower will last perhaps a day, after which it drops its petals in a flurry of scarlet or purple. Decadence was never so sweet.

A couple of years ago I was given the pale-pink double form, which has joined the others in the opium den. The pinks have crossed with the purples to produce some dusky plum colours in single and double form. They look wonderful; just like a softer version of that invasively fashionable, dusky-plum form of oriental poppy, *Papaver orientalis* 'Patty's Plum'.

From such a hotbed of colour, progeny is never entirely predictable, but it is safe to assume that you will get a degree of continuity.

I tag the most promising flower heads and save the seed for making discrete colonies of colour in the main part of the garden. If the colours are mixed it is easy to pull out the misfits from a single-colour colony.

In the vegetable patch, there is no hope of ever controlling the orgy of miscegenation, but all the spectrum of colours



The annual opium poppy, *Papaver somniferum*, is splendidly promiscuous, producing masses of heavily double flowers

reappears in each succeeding annual crop.

Aquilegias are ideal for mixed marriages. The double pink-and-white 'Nora Barlow' is common and comes true from seed to a high percentage. (If you want the true Nora, beware of buying her

out of flower, because so often she is sold from seed-grown plants which may not come true.) But put Nora with some randy old-fashioned aquilegias and she really lets her hair down. Hybrid progeny seed themselves all around, but still to a large degree with Nora's

double flower. Unlike the large-spurred McKana hybrid aquilegias, the Nora Barlow types are not flamboyant in flower, but they make up in charm and in quantity.

There are few things so

much fun for gardeners as seeing a whole mixed litter of little Barlows — doubles, semi-doubles and singles of pink, mauve, white and purple, presided over by their pink-and-white mother, Nora. They look good with the dark purple foliage of *Cotinus coggygria* 'Royal Purple' or the purple form of common sage, *Salvia officinalis* Purpurascens.

Anyone breeding plants — especially longer-lived plants — however casually, must be prepared to select mercilessly if any sort of consistency and quality is to be achieved.

A few years ago I picked up some seed from *Paonia delavayi*, the red-flowered, fruit-scented tree peony. Five years later I know the resulting shrub to be hybrids, crosses between red *P. delavayi* and the yellow *P. delavayi* var. *ludlowii*. The numerous flowers are a pleasant muddle of shades between yellow and orange, and perhaps 2in across.

I was pleased with these until I saw a specimen of what

must be the same hybrid

parentage in a garden in Nottinghamshire, with flowers 3in-4in across, which were more in scale with the dramatic foliage of the plant, and perfumed.

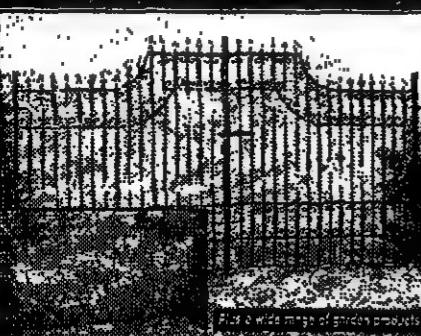
I now realise that mine

should go on the bonfire. It is

important to be more selective with a permanent, long-term shrub than with easy-come, easy-go poppies. Permanent respect has to be harder earned.

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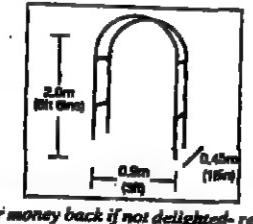
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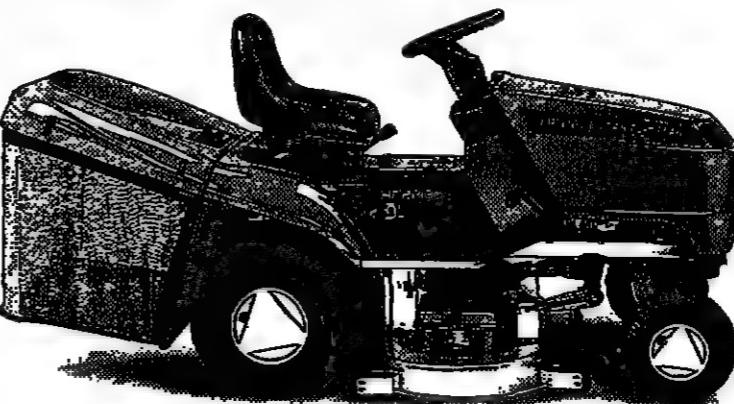
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## PROPERTY

## A development of the old school

Desks are replaced by sofas as classrooms are transformed

**T**here wasn't much to see when Crena Watson, a fashion photographer, walked through the door of her new flat: no walls, kitchen, bathroom or central heating, just 4,000 sq ft of space in south London.

Inside, apart from the size and shape of the windows, there was little to suggest that she now owned the former gymnasium and two classrooms of Lavender Hill School in Wandsworth. She bought the first floor flat a year ago and spent three months converting it into a 23ft by 17ft living room, a huge bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and a studio with a mezzanine floor for an office and darkroom. At one time there were 16 builders there.

Redundant schools can make homes of character. Rob Dark, an architect and conservationist, says: "Old schools are usually well built. The brickwork, joinery and decorative features are of a high standard and you can create an attractive environment and get more space for your money than in many modern houses."

Mr Dark also points out that schools are generally well located within the local community, close to shops and stations.

Lavender Hill was one of 500 schools built in the capital by the London School Board between 1870 and 1944. About 300 survive. Local school boards, which were found all over the country, were elected by ratepayers to provide elementary education for the poor.

English Heritage, mindful that architectural history could be lost by closure and demolition, is researching the history of board



Crena Watson in the living room of the flat she created from a shell. The windows are the only clue to the building's former life as a school

schools with a view to adding to the 43 listed nationwide. "Most are still in educational use. Listing can keep them open but it can ensure that any future conversion is done sympathetically," says Elain Harwood, an English Heritage historian.

Lavender Hill School — which is not listed — ended its days in the hands of the Inner London Education Authority as offices and a centre for adult education. Wandsworth council, which took it over in 1990, sold the 1.3 acre site two years ago to the developers Sapcote for £1.306 million.

Sapcote turned the school, renamed The Village, into 30 flats and sold them for £145,000-£400,000 each. A

book on school developments, *Beacons of Learning*, published last year by SAVE Britain's Heritage, describes The Village as a "shining example of enlightened entrepreneurial conservation".

"What people are buying is a shell," says Ashley Nicholson, a director of Sapcote. "It's up to the occupier to do what they like with the place. Every one is different." He estimates that conversion costs would be between £20,000 and £50,000.

Rob and Barbara Hunter fell in love with a shell of a building too; only theirs was a village school in Cumbria built in 1874. The school, with one high ceilinged room for

juniors and one for infants, was closed in 1988 because of falling numbers.

The couple put in a successful sealed bid to Cumbria County Council. The planning authorities in the Lake District National Park stipulated that the outside

had to stay as near as possible to the original," Mr Hunter says.

Inside, the school has been transformed, although with deference to its character and age. Eighteen months of work produced five bedrooms, a kitchen, a sitting room on a mezzanine floor and a dining room. "We wanted to keep the feeling of space. There's no point in buying a building like this and splitting it into small boxes," says Mrs Hunter, who did not want to disclose the cost.

The couple's advice to anyone

considering such a conversion is to choose an architect who is sensitive to the building. Emma Phillips at SAVE agrees: "If the building is converted, then carrying out a good scheme which retains the overall feeling is of prime importance. You should work with an architect who's had experience of historic buildings." She estimates conversion costs of village schools to be £50,000 upwards.

Over the past 12 years 350 small rural schools have closed in England. Other educational or community uses can often be found for them so by no means all end up as homes.

The organisation ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) is in the middle of piloting a scheme

in five counties (Buckinghamshire, Derbyshire, Lincolnshire, Essex and Cheshire) to encourage greater community use of small schools.

A number of converted schools are at present on the market. The Old School House at Rushford, near Thetford in Norfolk is for sale at £195,000 (Savills, 01473 226191) and there is the Old National School at Sampford Spiney, Yelverton, Devon (Strutt Parker, 01392 215631). Offers over £150,000.

Meanwhile Sapcote has just started the conversion of Lachmere Primary School in Wandsworth, for which the company paid £2.25 million. The buildings will be converted into 23 shell flats and eight houses, and 16 new, fully-fitted houses will be built in the grounds. Prices will range from £100,000 to £400,000.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

● Beacons of Learning is available from SAVE Britain's Heritage, 65 Battersea High Street, London SW11 3HX. £11.50 (0171-228 3350).

● ACRE, Somerton Court, Somerton Road, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1TW (01285 653471).

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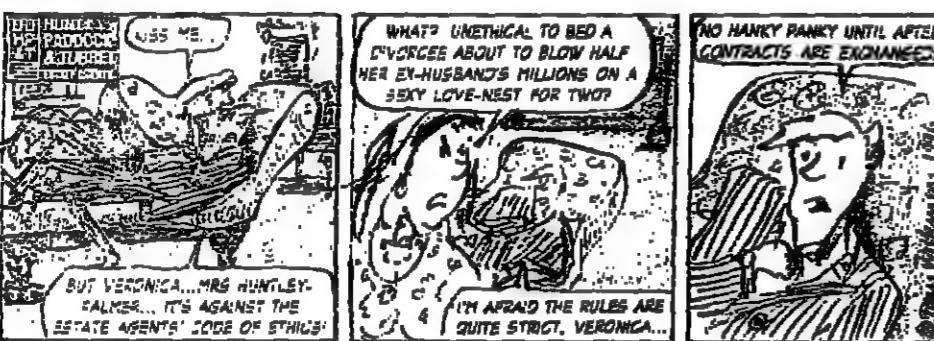
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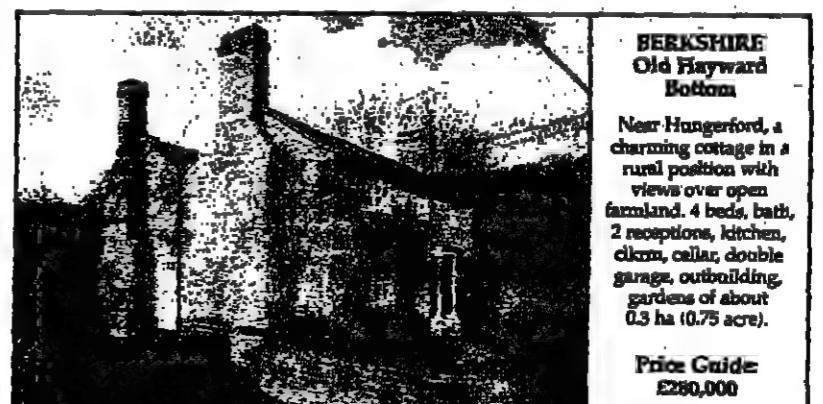
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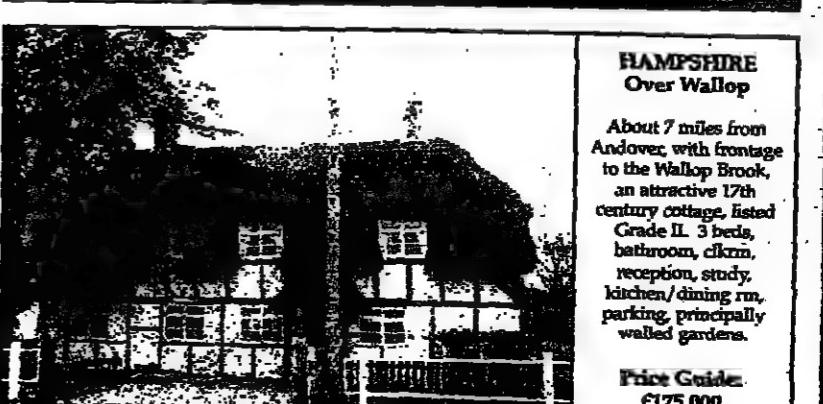
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Price Guide:  
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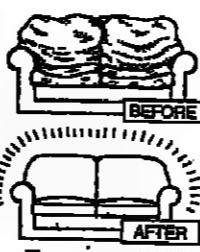


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## SHOPPING

Confused by the range of cameras on sale? Tim Wapshot off snaps a few rolls of film so he can point buyers in the right direction

# To put you in the picture

**T**oday we have the technology, in theory at least, to make sophisticated, easy-to-use cameras to suit every ability and pocket, starting with disposable cameras for less than a tenner. They are all worthy descendants of probably the first camera for amateurs, the Box Brownie — cost \$1 — which was unveiled 100 years ago by Eastman Kodak.

Between now and the summer holidays camera shops do some of their best business, and buyers need to decide which model will suit their pockets and which size will comfortably fit into it.

James Gardner, buyer for Selfridges' camera department, which last year sold more than 6,000 cameras made by 21 manufacturers, says: "Camera size should be a consideration. If it is too bulky, you're unlikely to take it with you."

"Then decide what pictures you want to take. If it's 'happy snaps', a basic set-focus, auto-wind 35mm compact from £30 will do. Spending a little more will give you a more solid 35mm compact, probably including a built-in zoom lens."

However, compact cameras with zoom lenses have drawbacks; although they are good for head-and-shoulders shots, the pictures rarely enlarge without loss of quality.

If you might want quality enlargements, consider stepping up to a league to the 35mm SLR (single lens reflex) camera, costing from £350 for an auto-focus version.

Auto-focus uses a beam to measure the distance between the camera lens and the spot on which you are focusing, so your picture will be sharp. An SLR also gives you many new

options, including the ability to swap lenses from wide-angle to telephoto and it will probably have manual override facilities.

I tested a selection of cameras using the same type of film in each, and the same developing process at *The Times*, based on Mr Gardner's bestselling models, to see whether price still makes a difference. My supermodels, photographed on a cloudy afternoon outside Hertford House, in central London, home of the Wallace Collection, were Young's the bakers' dray horses, Wandle Mascot and Wandle Buster. The cameras had to be easy to use, with fixed or auto-focus, and widely available. I also tested cameras suitable for children aged under ten.

The Kodak Fun Gold disposable camera (£39.99 with flash); easy to use but the pictures, though in focus, were too dark.

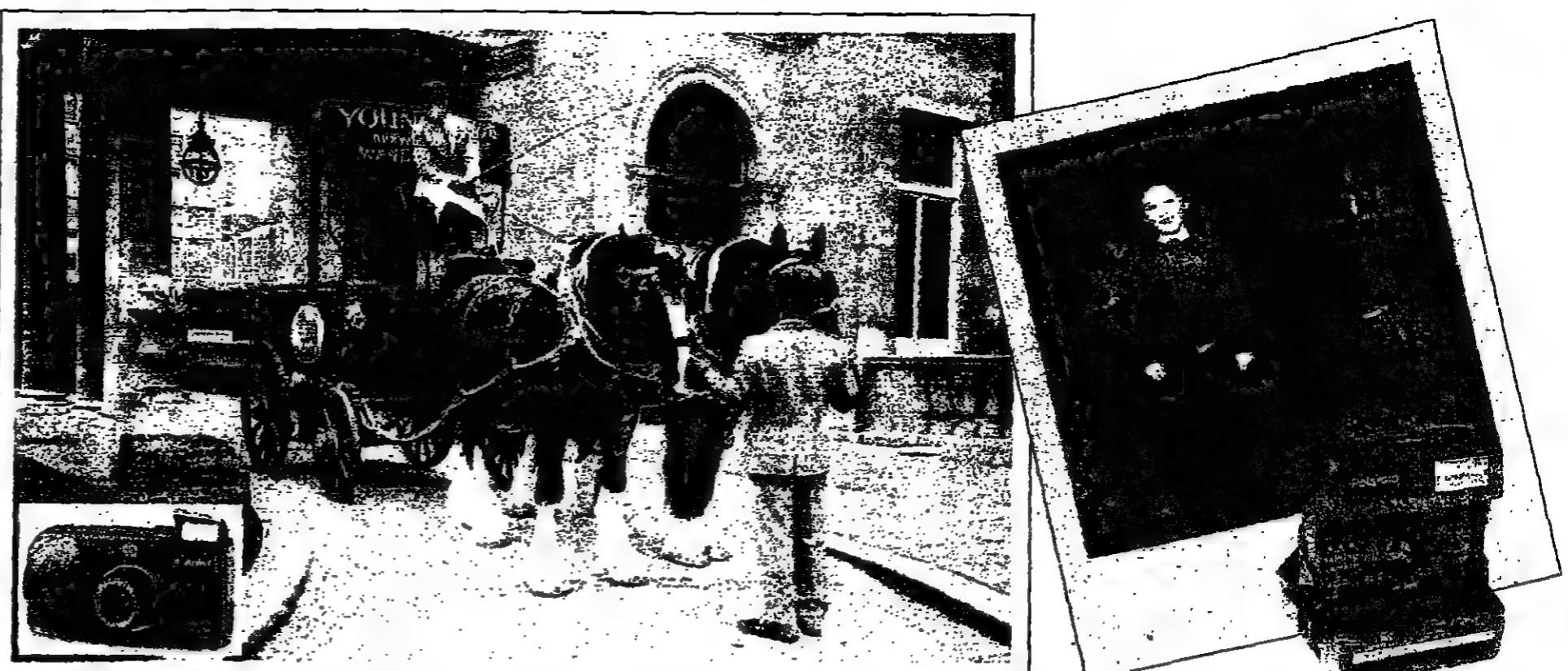
The Kodak Star AutoFocus compact (£39.99) is easy to use, but the print quality varied — some too dark, some faded at the edge but all in focus.

The Yashica T4 (£139.99), a compact with built-in flash. The pictures were too dark but perfectly focused.

**R**esults from the Canon Sureshot 70 Zoom compact (£159), with zoom capabilities and built-in flash, were slightly over-exposed but perfectly focused.

If you might want quality enlargements, consider stepping up to a league to the 35mm SLR (single lens reflex) camera, costing from £350 for an auto-focus version.

Auto-focus uses a beam to measure the distance between the camera lens and the spot on which you are focusing, so your picture will be sharp. An SLR also gives you many new



Wandle Mascot and Wandle Buster stroll into Canon Sureshot 70 Zoom focus (camera inset). Right, a picture of Oliver taken by William with the Polaroid talking camera

## Photographic fact file

□ Details of local stockists from: Kodak, 01442 61122; Yashica, 01734 311919; Canon, 0800 616417; Olympus, 0171-253 2772; Minolta, 01908 200400; Nikon, 081-541 4440; Polaroid, 01582 632000; Casio, 0181-450 9131.

undoubtedly the Polaroids. Oliver liked the chunky Polaroid 636 Talking Camera (£39.99), which plays your own taped messages, such as "Smile" as the pictures are taken, while William preferred the executive lines of the Polaroid Image Elite (£119.99).

But technology never stands still. Appearing in shops soon is a photographic system that Minolta, Nikon, Canon, Kodak and Fuji have developed jointly at a cost of £200 million: the Advanced Photo System (APS). These cameras will use a new type of film in tamper-proof cartridges, fractionally smaller than standard 35mm rolls, and automatic correctional information is stored on a magnetic strip in

the film to enable better darkroom salvaging if things go wrong.

It is too early to know whether the APS gamble will pay off. The cameras (from £60), films, developing and printing will all cost more, but the biggest initial drawback might be the difficulty in finding film stock in far-flung destinations. Mr Gardner comments: "APS is the way photography is going, but it will not do so overnight. The trade believes that APS and 35mm will sell side by side into the next century."

Instant pictures in another form are likely to change the face of consumer photography. Digital cameras will be a growth market and they do away with film altogether.

Pictures are saved electronically and can be transferred to computer disk. You cannot get regular prints, but colour pictures can be printed onto paper or incorporated into other computer documents.

Digital cameras give results instantly, enabling you to select the best, deleting others.

The most popular digital camera in the consumer market is the tiny Casio QV-10. With its large, back-lit colour LCD display, it gives surprisingly good results not yet quite as good as prints, even without flash in low light, and stores 30 pictures at a time.

Until now, price has been a big drawback, but that is dropping quickly and imminent newcomers — including Canon, Nikon and Polaroid — might keep the pressure up to keep prices down. Mr Gardner says: "The QV-10 originally cost £799; now it is £699 and unofficially you can get one for £599."

Nor is the novelty of the digital likely to wear off. The flexibility of seeing immediately the picture you have taken on the camera's mini screen and being able to take it again if it isn't quite what you want is the ultimate luxury.

Send for a Kodak photography guide. Main paper, page 19

## THE CAMERA I COVET

THERE IS a photograph in a book I have that shows a Vietnamese woman clutching the remains of her husband, which are in a plastic bag bound with string. She is protecting herself in her grief and a strand of saliva forms a link between her and her dead husband.

The photograph was taken by Larry Burrows in 1968 during the Tet Offensive. Three years later, he was killed covering the Vietnam War for *Life* magazine. His Leica — the very camera that took that picture — is the one I covet.

Designed by Oskar Barnack and using perforated cine film, the "Leica" I was introduced in 1925 by Ernst Leitz, the optical manufacturer of Wetzlar, Germany. Its success revolutionised photography, establishing 35mm as the format used to this day. This camera is well engineered, lightweight and simple to use for a professional photographer, but has few of the modern automatic features beloved of the amateur.

The current model, the M6, retains much of the original design and feel. Alfred Eisenstaedt used a Leica

to capture forever the sailor kissing the nurse in Times Square on VJ Day in August 1945 which ran on the cover of *Life*. Henri Cartier-Bresson, who helped to establish photo-journalism as an art form, bought his first Leica in 1933.

For me, the most interesting photographer now using Leicas is Ellen von Unwerth, whose uncompromising erotic photographs of the fashion world are on show in London.

The world record price for a camera is for a Leica — £36,000, paid at Christie's in 1993 for a gold model custom-made for the Sultan of Morocco. New Leicas cost about £2,000.

If this price is out of reach, perhaps the best camera to own would be the one that takes the next picture of Lord Lucan. I would love it to be a Leica M6 — and in my hands at the time.

GRAHAM WOOD

• The author is picture editor of *The Times* Magazine.

• Ellen von Unwerth's exhibition, *Hamilton Gallery*, 12 Carlo Place, London W1, until April 27.

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## BOOKS

# Discreet alarm of the bourgeoisie

**Elizabeth Buchan** discovers that the Aga-saga for the 1990s is sending out an SOS from the shires, where middle-class marriages and morality melt down in middle age

ALONG with tarts' knicker blinds, designer water and the personal computer, the Aga-saga arrived in the late 1980s. With its distinctive pastel jacket and rejection of glitz, it ousted the sex 'n' shopping novel, and readers flocked to read them. The swing of fashion? Yes, in part. But there is, perhaps, more cooking in the Aga-saga than a 1990s espousal of domestic values insular as it fictionalises profound insecurities and crises of confidence. For this is a world where adultery is commonplace and a sustaining morality is in shreds. In short, the message from the shires is one of middle-class angst.

So it is understandable that the plots of these three novels are

virtually indistinguishable. Two of them plunge the reader into the queasy eruptions of middle-aged marriages that have been jogging along for too long. The third transplants an infant marriage from the city to the village, which, with its cast of old ladies, busybodies and faded squires, is almost a parody but is redeemed by sharp and perspicacious writing.

A *Summer Affair* opens with Nicholas scraping dandruff off his scalp, an example of Swiftian detail that the author often slips in. He is

■ A SUMMER AFFAIR  
By Amanda Brookfield  
*Sceptre*, £16.99  
■ SEVEN FOR A SECRET  
By Judy Astley  
*Black Swan*, £5.99  
■ THE TORTOISE SHELL  
By Fanny Frewen  
*Century*, £15.99

jottingly, and his ambitions to write are going nowhere, while his energetic wife, Kate, is embarking on a career as a cookery writer, his children are growing up and

Nicholas is falling prey to jealousy and suspicion. Before long, he is behaving very badly. Amanda Brookfield's tussle with the complexities of a marriage has moments of insight and black humour but it is marred by hurried and cluttered prose.

The heroine of *Seven for a Secret* is not a cook but a gifted gardener, but the same situation is apparent. Married for 25 years to the mostly absent Tom, an airline pilot, Heather is horrified to discover that her first husband, a rakish Scottish

laird with whom she eloped out of school, has arrived in the village to film his bestselling novel. Money is not a problem, but having enough does not let you off sharp, sometimes cruel lessons and unwelcome reminders of the past. Judy Astley plots her plot along at a good pace, but the deeper feelings capable of transforming a romp into something more significant only emerge in the last pages.

Slighter and quicker, *The Tortoise Shell* has the texture and flavour of the lovingly distilled,

whose prose has been allowed onto the page only after a proper gestation.

A genius at advertising copy, Henry Brack has married handsome, successful, nice Jack who immediately sets about taming his wife by corralling her at Mulberry Cottage in his home village of Tiddington. Surprisingly, Henry gives in, abandons her smart metropolitan existence and finds herself transplanted into a community of women who operate by their own rules. Will Henry survive the role of stay-at-home wife? Ninety-five-year-old Mrs Boxendale has her own thoughts on the matter. Sharp as a knife and yet deeply compassionate, Fanny Frewen is an original spirit.

IAN TURNER

## SHORT STORIES

### Moody and the blues

■ THE RING OF BRIGHTEST ANGELS AROUND HEAVEN

By Rick Moody

*Abacus*, £9.99

RICK MOODY'S short takes are mood pieces. He paints word pictures of the everyday American nightmare somewhere between Hoppe and Kauschenberg. These shards of inconsequential living are nicely constructed, elegantly and wittily written. Lots of brand names and name dropping. In the long title story, the underbelly of a seedy New York is investigated through a hypnotic description of surfaces. A clever chap. Moody, worth keeping an eye on.

■ THE CUB-HUNTING SEASON

By Steve Ferris

*Vintage*, £8.99

THIS first collection is a bit like a surfeit of ballet, an art form that brings me out in spots. Characters, mainly homosexual, metamorphose into zoo animals or butterflies, or anything to escape difficult humanity. The selfishness of the characters, to a man, is awesome. The writing is accomplished enough — the menace of Genet tagged to the surreal baroque of Angela Carter — but lacks either's originality of vision.

■ LEAVE TO STAY

Edited by Joan Riley and Brian Wood

*Virago*, £7.99

BRIAR WOOD is a white New Zealander, Joan Riley a black Jamaican, and they collect stories and poems by migrants in Britain and America. Here are the fears and excitements of arriving in new places as well as the day-to-day problems of living in foreign parts. The writing is as varied as are the nationalities of the contributors. What is not particularly remarked upon is the extent to which "foreigners" enhance the quality of life in their new homes.

■ SCOTTISH GHOST STORIES

By James Robertson

Warner, £4.99

MANY of these retellings are derived from Hugh Miller's essential 1835 compilation. James Robertson's versions have all been "researched". He has visited the sites of his hauntings as if this kind of documentation makes the spooky nudgings of the imagination somehow more credible. Familiar stories, such as those of the 17th-century wizard, Major Weir, and the Monster of Glams, are included as well as little known hauntings up to the present.

GILES GORDON

## Neither Romanov, nor an empress

■ THE QUEST FOR ANASTASIA  
By John Klier  
*Smith Gryphon*, £8.99



Anastasia: murder victim

ALMOST 75 years after a squad of half-drunkens local Bolsheviks burst into the basement of the Ipatiev House in Ekaterinburg and opened fire indiscriminately on Tsar Nicholas II, his family and servants, scientists at the Home Office Forensic Laboratory this month finally resolved one of the most emotionally charged and politically contentious cases of genocide. Genetic tests have proved beyond doubt that the bones first dug up in secrecy in a muddy wood in 1979 are indeed those of the slain emperor.

The long mystery was solved by DNA matching. If the technique had been available 50 years ago, it would have unmasked one of history's most famous imposters, cut short one of the longest and costliest civil suits German courts have ever heard and avoided years of feuding between more than 40 surviving members of the quarrelsome Romanov family. For

Anna Anderson, the mysterious woman pulled from a Berlin canal who intrigued and infuriated the world with her claim that she was Anastasia, the Tsar's only surviving daughter, was a fraud. Paranoid, chronically ill, obstinate and by turns reclusive

MICHAEL BINION

Royal on April 24, with P. D. James as the guest of honour. Also on the shortlist are *The Red Pavilion* by Jean Chapman, *To Lie with Lions* (Dorothy Dunnett), *Unforgettable* (William Gill), *Misfortune* (Susan Moody), *Coming Home* (Rosamund Pilcher) and *Casing Off* (Libby Purves).

● ACTRESS Juliet Walters is at work on a novel, also bought by Little, Brown. Unsurprisingly, the star of *Educating Rita* and *Buster* draws her inspiration from the thespian world: "It is about two actresses and will be slightly autobiographical, with laughter and tears, but rather more laughter," we are promised.

● NICHOLAS EVANS'S *The Horse Whisperer* has been shortlisted for the Romantic Novel of the Year Award to be announced at London's Cafe

### BOOK NEWS: Hats off to Larry; diplomatic impunity

### Olivier papers sought

television tie-in, *Diplomacy in the 20th Century*, which spans the years from 1914 to the Gulf War. Will Hurd take a critical view of the quality of today's diplomacy? "It will be very Douglas Hurd — very diplomatic," says his publisher.

● DOUBTLESS anticipating increased leisure time and a life in the Lords, former Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd has signed a two-book deal with Little, Brown. The first is an as-yet-unitled political thriller and the second a



Last generation? Statistics on the tiger population are unreliable and the battle to save them may already be lost

## Tiger, tiger, burning dim

■ OF TIGERS AND MEN  
By Richard Ives  
*Mainstream*, £14.99

with countless others. Genghis has gone, his bones ground up to make tiger wine.

Along the way Ives encounters other tiger fanatics. Men such as "Billy" Arjan Singh, who became hooked on tigers as a child after reading Jim Corbett's classic *Man-eaters of Kumon*. Singh has spent most of his life hand-raising and releasing tigers and leopards into the wild at Tiger Haven, his home on the edge

of Dudhwa national park.

Now, like all the tiger men, he feels disillusioned and betrayed by the way in which Operation Tiger, the international rescue attempt to save India's great cats from extinction, has been allowed to run into the sands.

Official reports reckon there are still between 3,000 and 4,000 tigers in India. The tiger men believe these figures are wildly optimistic. The true figure may be fewer than 700.

In Indonesia, where truth is an unknown continent, the government has simply lied

about its tigers. There are supposed to be at least 400, but no more than a few dozen survive.

The same is true of Thailand, where the tigers of Khao Yai, one of the country's wildlife showplaces, have been poached by people working inside the park, who sell the carcasses to a Bangkok restaurant specialising in exotic meats.

Ives writes with messianic fervour, but his book is bitter medicine, with no saccharine message of hope to coat the pill. He has journeyed into the future, only to discover that the tiger is leaving us. One day soon, he predicts, the last tiger will be born. For few years more its roar will echo in the night. Then the forests will fall silent for ever.

BRIAN JACKMAN

"expert" salesmen at your local computer superstore.

There is a splendid section on the future of computer technology — electronic newspapers, automated homes and so on — that will seem impossibly quaint in a few years' time. If you think that all of this technology will eventually drive you mad, don't worry. In the future, when you talk to the walls, the walls will talk back.

PETER INGHAM

## All roads lead to CD-Rom

■ MULTIMEDIA:  
The Complete Guide  
Dorling Kindersley, £19.99

importantly, does not talk down to us adults as we struggle to catch up with the technology the young take for granted.

And even if some of it goes over your head, you should pick up enough of the jargon to enable the talk to the same language as your children, or at the very least to be able to call the bluff of the

## TEENAGE FICTION

### Friendly bombs

PITY the authors who write for older children. Apart from keeping up with the trends, they have only a few years to capture an audience. After that, readers move on. "Sadly outgrown," as they used to say in the *Horse & Horn* pony advertisements.

Terry Pratchett, who "writes for anyone old enough to understand", is the witty exception. *Johnny and the Bomb* (Doubleday, £12.99) is his third novel about Johnny Maxwell, the 12-year-old (going on 17) whose strange adventures keep teenagers on the tips of their toes. Here in company with three mates, plus Kirsty (a sharp-tongued version of the token female), he goes back in time to the Second World War. It is May 1941 and a bomb is about to fall on rural Blackbury, enabling Johnny to remark, "I can remember when it was all buildings". Despite the surface simplicity of Pratchett's language, readers of 12 plus are in for a demanding read.

Give Robert Westall's *Falling into Glory* (Mammoth, £4.99) to a 14 or 15-year-old and do not expect to see it again until her (or his) entire class has read it — and reread it, with the tears streaming down their cheeks. First published in 1983, it is the story of how Robbie, the school's bright boy and rugby hero, falls in love with his teacher, the enthralling Miss Harris. By 16 or 17, I am told, you may have got all you can out of it. This hothouse of a book set in a period of postwar innocence can be relied on to have a knock-out effect on teenage emotions for generations.

Feelings of guilt and anger which can follow a death are explored in *The Shadow of August* by Sue Welford (OUP, £5.99), but mostly it is a gripping mystery. After her mother's death, 17-year-old Matie discovers that a lot of things she had been told about her childhood were false. Unravelling her past is painful, but inheriting a house in Cornwall can only be romantic. An imagination stretcher for 14 to 16-year-olds, the novel stops when Matie has unravelled all the secrets, and we long to know her reactions.

MAUREEN OWEN



## Win £50 a week in shopping vouchers

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**Who is The Times wine writer?**

a) Jilly Goolden

b) Janice Robinson

c) Jane MacQuitty

Lines are open until midnight on Monday, April 15, 1996. The first correct entry chosen at random will win the £2,600 worth of shopping vouchers. Normal Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

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DILLONS

Any book from this list can be ordered free.

SHORT STORY  
Mood and the blues



■ THE UNCONSOLED  
By Kazuo Ishiguro  
Faber, £6.99

THIS respectable hotel, this city somewhere in Europe; it all seems familiar yet deeply strange. Mr Ryder, celebrity pianist and narrator, checks in authoritatively enough but soon proves absurdly hazy about why he is here.

The staff, attentive yet disturbingly demanding, allude to meetings, tight schedules. Whenever Ryder falls asleep, the telephone rings. Actually this is a city of dreams, perhaps of death. Vaguely remembered people pop up and then suddenly are gone in a realm of anomalies and exhaustion, albeit not without hope.

This extraordinary novel from the author of *The Remains of the Day* has echoes of Chaucer's dream poems, Lewis Carroll,

Fellini. It is a *Divine Comedy* for our times: epic, episodic, satirical, spiritual, poignant though elusive. The story of a pressurised artist, considered a contemporary music guru, becomes a nightmare of flailing civic guidance and a vision of the state we are in as modernity's lost souls.

Ryder's journey, ending on page 535 aboard a circling trawler, is not strong on forward-drive. However, Ishiguro's stream of glimpsed encounters is curiously absorbing. Behavioural observations are sharp, particularly of the small boy Ryder takes round with him but often forgets, pescily hyperactive or worryingly still. Some might find the tone cold. Yet Ishiguro's quiet eloquence creates the estrangement that partners distress in our dreams.

then murder with the discovery of the bizarrely asphyxiated body of an editor at Pevell Press, a venerable yet ailing London publishing house. Inspector Kate Miskin, together with an unusually remote Commander Dalgleish — in his eighth murder case for James — are called in to the brooding Innocent House to investigate. From the legacies of history spring a chilling hidden agenda and resolution, it seems, can only be found in bloodshed. An absorbing tale of bitterness and retribution that leaves the reader wondering until the final page.

■ THE WRONG GIRL  
By Nick McDowell  
Sceptre, £5.99

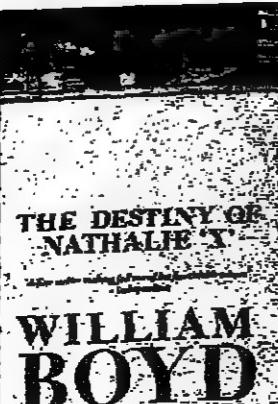
THIS is a compelling and subtle novel about the tragic changes that are wrought in a small New England farming community, when its young men go to fight in the Second World War. Raymond Smith returns home to his girlfriend and their baby to find that his familiar world has been irrevocably altered by death and absence, setting the scene for a tragic conclusion. Alison Dye is strikingly astute on the psychological effects of loss and her vividly-drawn characters struggle for self-expression and resourcefulness and humour.

■ ORIGINAL SIN  
By P. D. James  
Penguin, £5.99

SINISTER practical jokes are followed by suicide and

■ THE MORAL ANIMAL  
Why We Are The Way We Are  
By Robert Wright  
Abacus, £8.99

WHY IS IT that rich American parents tend to lavish most attention on their sons while poorer parents concentrate on their daughters? It's all to do with giving the family genes the best chance of survival, according to the evolutionary psychologists. In this densely written but highly readable book Robert Wright explains the infant science, showing that many of our patterns of behaviour are built on an instinctive self-interest. A bracing view, but not necessarily pessimistic.



■ THE DESTINY OF  
NATHALIE X  
By William Boyd  
Penguin, £5.99

PRIZE-WINNING African film maker Aurélien Noé has a taste of Hollywood and decides it's not for him. Suicidal Wittgenstein realises that there are people worse off than he and finds the courage to carry on. Edward covets his girl-friend's twin sister and seizes a moment's opportunity to dispose of his rival. Most of these stories concern physical travel. An unvictorious satirist, Boyd catches his characters in the midst of their mental journeys, and with a few well-placed adjectives manages to show them as they are, their shifting perceptions of the world and their place in it.

Kate Bassett, Lucy Lethbridge, Perry Cleveland-Peck, Amanda Loosie, Hazel Leslie, Fiona Hook, Nicki Household

■ CLASS WORK  
Edited by Malcolm Bradbury  
Sceptre, £6.99

THE FIRST and sole student to attend Malcolm Bradbury and Angus Wilson's MA course in creative writing at the University of East Anglia in 1970 was Ian McEwan. In his introduction to this 25th-anniversary collection of stories by graduates, McEwan heaps praise on his teachers. These diverse stories are linked only by a certain bleakness, especially fine are Kazuo Ishiguro's disturbing characters in the midst of their mental journeys, and with a few well-placed adjectives manages to show them as they are, their shifting perceptions of the world and their place in it.

Frances DONNELLY

WEEKEND SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

## BOOKS

# How Denis fits the Bill

Denis Thatcher is a genial buffer but he is no buffoon, according to his daughter, Michael Gove finds

THE HOLD Denis Thatcher has on the public imagination is the result, more than anything, of the genius of John Wells and Richard Ingrams, whose "Dear Bill" letters in *Private Eye* took the intrinsic comedy of a male chauvinist hen-pecked by a悍ian and turned it into brilliant satire.

The image Wells and Ingrams invented of a gin-drinking, golf-playing, conformist conservative saloon-bar buffer was so convincing that it is easy to forget that the living inspiration for their caricature is an intriguing figure in his own right. Below the Parapet seeks to rescue the real Denis from the imagined. Carol Thatcher's own life,

lived in the shade of a dominating mother and demanding brother, imbues her account of Denis's position with a special sympathy. Although Denis is painted as an enemy of emotion, who rarely spoke to his children unless to bark a command and who was abroad when his wife was selected for Finchley, there is something touching about his silent support, doing the washing-up while advisers worked on speeches with the party leader.

His love for his wife is of a

■ BELOW THE PARAPET  
By Carol Thatcher  
HarperCollins, £16.99

practical, undemonstrative kind, common to his age and class but unfashionable now. That makes all the more attractive those moments where feeling breaks through, such as Denis's gift to his wife after the Brighton bombing of a watch inscribed "Every moment is precious". The *Private Eye* caricature of consort as cunctus is firmly demolished.

But if Carol Thatcher is a

revisionist in her treatment of Denis's private life, her insights into his political views only serve to reinforce the image already established. There are scores of hilarious anecdotes, all crisply related, but one in particular reveals the unreconstructed Denis of the "Dear Bill" letters. At a Downing Street reception for the cast of *Anyone for Denis?*, a farce based on the *Private Eye* parodies, Denis mistook an actor for a plain-clothes policeman and congratulated him on his colleagues' han-

dling of the Brixton riots: "You get fuzze-wuzzles on the rampage... you people sort it out in time at all."

Carol Thatcher admits it was "vintage Denis" but excuses the casual racism by eliding it with Denis's opposition to the "crooked and despotic leaders" of post-colonial Africa. It won't wash. Denis is a glorious golf-club reactionary, not a critic of human rights abuses in Uganda. The appeal of the man and the caricature is the honesty with which he says what so many of his generation think.

Carol Thatcher has done more than capture her father: she has, by faithfully rendering him, caught the cadences



of a type of Englishman, comfortable in his prejudices, loyal to simple virtues, who will soon, like Whig grandees and London dockers, be a thing of the past. In retrieving their standard bearer from fiction and making him flesh and blood Carol Thatcher has done that generation, and posterity, a service.

John Betjeman's faith was bolstered by his love of church architecture, Simon Jenkins says



St Endellion, Cornwall, painted by Paul Hogarth — the huge granite blocks of the tower are said to have been brought from Lundy Island

## Devotion carved from the rock of ages

■ IN PRAISE OF CHURCHES  
By John Betjeman  
Illustrated by Paul Hogarth  
John Murray, £17.99

JOHN BETJEMAN loved English churches as no man before or since. He approached them not as he did a great station or seaside pier, as a work purely of architecture or design. To him they were the embodiment of faith in stone. The ones he treasured most were the Church of England at prayer. He loved to quote Comper's definition of ecclesiastical architecture, that it should bring you to your knees at first sight.

John Murray's collection of Betjeman's writings on churches has mined a vast quarry. His famous extended introduction to the Collins parish church guide would have occupied half this book alone, though I would have liked to read it here in its entirety rather than filleted. But we

have the favourites, both in prose and verse: the evocation of the tombstone carver "from a lost world of wheelwrights and wagon-makers and insinuous writers"; the essay on Minal church in Wiltshire, entering which is stepping "straight into a Jane Austen

novel"; the glories of Wren in the City of London, of the great Victorian masters, Pearson and Sedding, and, by contrast, of the much-loved chapels of Cornwall.

We recall Betjeman's fascination still too mannered for a harder age should beware. Paul Hogarth's watercolour illustrations play up to Betjeman's whimsicality, even sometimes parody it. But they have the measure of the man and of his loves. This is a book of light-hearted devotion.

are ecumenical in taste. There are Baptist, Quaker, Methodist and Catholic churches and chapels. There is "our padre" whose "voice would reach to Heaven and make/ the Rock of Ages roll". And we visit Betjeman's final resting place, St Endodoc by the golf course by the sea in Cornwall, of which he wrote prophetically: "Oh kindly slate! To give me shelter in this crevice".

Those who find Betjeman's writing still too mannered for a harder age should beware. Paul Hogarth's watercolour illustrations play up to Betjeman's whimsicality, even sometimes parody it. But they have the measure of the man and of his loves. This is a book of light-hearted devotion.

is a polar explorer of note as well as the author of a dozen books.

One of these, *The Feather Men*, which exploited his SAS background and posed as "faction", topped the British bestseller lists, which I suspect is why Flennies has decided to return to the genre in *The Sett*. He has spared no pains to make it convincing, including a detailed index of the vast cast of characters, and even photographs of the leading players.

In his epilogue, Flennies stresses how much of the story he tried to check because of libel fears. It sounds good but in fact all the identifiable characters who might have cause to complain of defamation are dead, except for two who are serving long prison sentences and are linked to the main narrative only incidentally.

According to Flennies, his protagonist, named Alex Goodman, approached him in 1994, and asked him to write his biography. Flennies agreed on condition he keep all the proceeds, excusing himself on the grounds that he was a Lloyd's name. Well, maybe, but I think it is a dead giveaway. This book is a tour de force in its scope, ambition and eclecticism, but I think it would have been just as good if he admitted he had made it all up.

PETER MILLAR

MARCEL BERLINS

## Telling tales out of prep school

■ FACING THE MUSIC  
By Mary Sheepshanks  
Century, £16.99

FLORA, beautiful, 21 and a formidably talented flautist, seems destined for stardom, until a broken heart and illness threaten to end her brilliant career.

She begins to teach music at Winsleyhurst, a boys' prep school, where Gervase, the headmaster, profits a worn corduroy shoulder to lean on. Somewhat implausibly they marry — familiar territory to Mary Sheepshanks, who was her wife to the headmaster at St Edmunds School.

Perhaps for this reason her lively descriptions of life at Winsleyhurst are the most engaging part of the book. Staff-room politics and passions run riot. Matron is a terriormant from Morningside in a petticoat belt. Douglas Butler, the senior master, still regrets the passing of corporal punishment. Most beguilingly there is Meg, the second matron, who has loved Gervase in silence for 15 years.

Admirers of Mary Sheepshanks's first novel placed her writing somewhere between that of Mary Wesley and Joanna Trollope. In reality her novels lack the prudence of the former and the sharp contemporaneity of the latter: the character of Meg could have stayed from the pages of a Barbara Pym novel. The warp and woof of Meg's holidays are cooking for her elderly parents and babysitting for her ungrateful married siblings.

Hardly surprising that life back at school seems so attractive and we know she need not worry. It is clear from the start that Flora is not a stayer. Alastair Forbes, a handsome single parent, allegedly a former member of the SAS (romantic-fiction shorthand for a virile, firm-jawed hero who is good at skinning rabbits) soon has Flora re-examining her wedding vows and packing her flute.

I just hope that Meg finally realises that Nice Girls Finish Last and grabbed her chance.

Frances DONNELLY

## Pull the other one, Ranulph



Fiennes: an extraordinarily improbable epic of "faction"

■ THE SETT  
By Ranulph Fiennes  
Heinemann, £15.99

IMAGINE, if you can, a plot that links together the late CIA director William Casey, the former Pakistani President Zia ul-Haq, Winston Silcock and the Broadwater Farm riot, the collapse of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International and the Animal Liberation Front. Now try telling your readers that it is all factual.

That is exactly what Ranulph Fiennes has done in *The Sett*, an extraordinarily improbable epic of violence that stretches from Britain to the Bahamas and back to Blackburn via interludes in Los Angeles and Jamaica. The story starts when an unassuming accountant out walking with his family comes across a group of men indulging in the gruesome "sport" of badger-digging, which involves flushing the creatures out of their dens, maiming them and then setting bull terriers loose to finish them off.

His attempt to stop this brutality ends with his wife and daughter being raped and murdered. He is beaten unconscious and left for dead, only to wake two days later with amnesia. The recovery of his memory leads him on a global hunt for revenge, much of it conducted via the underworld of cocaine, crack and prostitution, with the help of an unlikely group of Peckham-based drug dealers — consisting of black Jamaican men and a female Ulster loyalist assassin — who, Robin Hood-style, also run a rehabilitation service for junkie children of rich parents. Phew.

Fiennes himself, of course, is an improbable enough character in real life: a cross between Ian Fleming and some preposterous John Buchan hero. Educated in South Africa and at Eton, he has served in the Royal Scots and the SAS, fought in Arabia and

theatre, and is a dead giveaway. This book is a tour de force in its scope, ambition and eclecticism, but I think it would have been just as good if he admitted he had made it all up.

T. J. BINYON

## Over the wall and far away

■ ESCAPE: An Anthology  
Edited by Michael Mason  
Chatto & Windus, £16.99

MICHAEL MASON has brought together some 150 accounts of escape in this collection, from the children of Israel decamping from Egypt to Ronnie Biggs going over the wall in rather more recent times. Though most recount real-life escapes, some are fictional, and it is interesting to see how meretricious and artificial Hemingway, le Carré or Joseph Heller appear when sandwiched between rough, untutored narratives of prison or concentration camp experience.

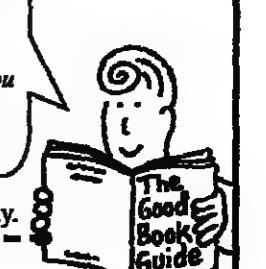
This suggests that Mason has cast his net too wide, a suspicion that is confirmed when he remarks in his introduction that the pieces have been chosen "to remind the reader of what humans can endure and what they can inflict": the experience of prison, rather than the getaway, seems at times to have im-

escapes from Louveteau in 1621 as a chess set; during the Second World War, Giles Romilly leaves Wöbbelin in lipstick, scarf and camel-hair coat, and indignantly ignores the wolf-whistles of a herd of "loutish Luftwaffe hooligans" in 1611 Lady Arabella hoodwinks her gaolers by "drawing on a pair of great French-fashioned hose over her Petticoats, putting on a Man's Doublet, a man-like Perruque with long locks over her Hair, a black Hat, black Cloak, russet Bootees and a Rapiere by her Syde".

But who is the doughty Lady Arabella, and why is she escaping? The book cries out for annotation, for explanation of circumstances, identity, place and time, but we are never given more than the source of the extract.

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## GOING OUT

## CHILDREN

**LONDON**  
Aesop's Fabulous Fables  
Updated version of the ancient fables for ages three to eight.  
*Lauderdale House*,  
Waterloo Park, N6 (0181-348 8716). Today 10am & 11.30am; £3, child £2, concs available.

**Cotile Sisters Circus**  
Traditional circus adapted for the 1990s and fun for all the family.  
*Alexandra Palace*,  
Wood Green, N22 (0836 222232). Today/tomorrow 2pm & 5pm; £6-£10, concs available.

**Easter Holiday children's activities**  
A "family activity car" travels round the museum offering a variety of activities for ages three to 12.  
*Victoria and Albert Museum*, Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8500). Today/tomorrow 10.30am-5pm, free.

**The Famous Five**  
Enid Blyton's classic children's tales told in musical form.  
*King's Head*,  
Upper Street, N1 (0171-226 1916). Today/tomorrow noon, £7, concs £5.

**The Golden Feather**  
Eggbert the Space Bird, Charlotte the Caterpillar and Stanley the Stork star in delightful show for ages five and over.  
*Tricycle Theatre*, Kilburn High Road, NW6 (0171-338 1000). Today 11.30am & 2pm; £3, concs £2.

**Go Noah Go!**  
The Bible story, with added warmth, humour and visual wonder for ages three to nine.  
*Little Angel Marionette Theatre*, Dagmar Passage, Cross Street, N1 (0171-226 1787). Today/tomorrow 3pm; £6, concs £5.

**Miss Nightingale's Cats**  
Discover Mr White the Tom-



There is plenty to keep the children amused, from kite-making and paper sculpture courses to storytelling sessions and theatre

N1 (0171-226 1787). Today 11am; £5, concs £4.50.

**The Marsh King's Daughter**  
Magical version of Hans Christian Andersen's tale for ages six and over.  
*Little Angel Marionette Theatre*,

Dagmar Passage, Cross Street, N1 (0171-226 1787). Today/tomorrow 3pm; £6, concs £5.

**Miss Nightingale's Cats**  
Discover Mr White the Tom-

Cat, Plato the Cicada, Peggy the Pony and Athena the Owl in this paw-print trail around the museum.  
*Florence Nightingale Museum*, Lambeth Palace Road, SE1 (0171-620 0374). Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm; £2.50, concs £1.50, family £5.

**Pipsqueak in the Picture**  
Painting with a mischievous little mouse in this show for ages three to five.

**Little Angel Marionette Theatre**

Dagmar Passage, Cross Street, N1 (0171-226 1787). Today/tomorrow 3pm; £6, concs £5.

**Marischal Museum**

Marischal College, Broad

**Little Angel Marionette Theatre**, Dasmari Passage, Cross Street, N1 (0171-226 1787). Tomorrow 11am; £5, concs £4.50.

**REGIONAL ABERDEEN Kites!**

Children can make their own using plastic bags, paper and ribbons in this workshop for ages seven and over.  
*Marischal Museum*, Marischal College, Broad

Street (01224 273131). Tomorrow 2.30pm-4.30pm; £2.50.

**BELFAST The Magical World of the Care-Bears**

Fun show with three comic adventures for ages three to ten.  
*Belfast Civic Arts Theatre*, Botanic Avenue (01232 324936). Today 11am & 2.30pm, tomorrow 2pm & 4.30pm; £4.50, children £4.

**GLASGOW Youth Theatre Festival**

Street (01224 273131). Tomorrow 2.30pm-4.30pm; £2.50.

**HALIFAX Show Must Go On**

Join the Eureka! staff and help save the day by putting together your own pop concert.  
*Eureka! Museum for Children*, Discovery Road (01422 330069). Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm; £4.75, child £3.75, family £14.95, under-threes free.

**LEEDS Children's Dance Workshop**

A chance to learn a range of different dance styles in classes for ages eight to 13.  
*Northern School Of Contemporary Dance*,

Chapeltown Road (013-262 5359). Today 9.30am-2.30pm; £5p.

**MANCHESTER Star Trek — The Exhibition**  
A treat for all ages with exhibits including a model of the *USS Enterprise* and a full-size set of the transporter room from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*.

*Museum of Science & Industry*, Liverpool Road (0161-832 2244). Today/tomorrow 10am-5pm; £5, concs £3, under-fives free.

**Vivid: Children's Workshop**  
Making paper sculptures using chicken wire, foil, tissue and newspaper. Ages 11 to 16.  
*Cornerhouse*, Oxford Street (0161-228 2463). Today 11.30am; £2.

**NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE Children's Gallery**

Toys, games and art for the under-fives.  
*Lazing Art Gallery*, Highgate Place (0191-232 7734). Today 10am-5pm, tomorrow 2pm-Sun; free.

**Science Factory**

Science centre specially designed for children.  
*Discovery Museum*, Blandford Square (0191-232 6789). Mon-Sat 10am-5pm; free.

**READING The Phantom of the Opera on Ice**

Spectacular tale of love and revenge with 23 of Russia's top skaters.  
*The Hexagon*, Queens Walk (01734 501591). Today 2.30pm & 5pm, £9.50-£18.50, concs available.

**SOUTHSEA The Chuckle Brothers**

Fun-filled, slapstick show for all the family.  
*King's Theatre*, Albert Road (01705 282823). Today 11am/2.30pm; £6, child £5.

## POP

**LONDON**  
Beenie Man, Shocking Vibes Crew Jamaican regga MC.  
*The Forum*, Highgate Road, NW5 (0171-344 0044). Tomorrow 7pm; £16.

**David Devant & His Spirit Wife**  
English pop band harking back to the days of music-hall.  
*The Garage*, Highbury Corner, N5 (0171-607 1818) Today 8pm; £5.

**Larry Garner**  
Mississippi blues.  
*100 Club*, Oxford Street, W1 (0171-636 0933). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £8, members £6.

**Natalie Merchant**  
East Coast folk-rocker, formerly of 10,000 Maniacs.  
*Shepherd's Bush Empire*, Shepherd's Bush Green, W12 (0181-740 7474). Today 7pm; £11.

**Alanis Morissette**  
Young Canadian singer songwriter.



Sonic Youth's Lee Renaldo

**GLASGOW Tamsin Archer**

The balladeer starts her comeback.  
*Royal Concert Hall*, Sauchiehall Street (0141-227 5511). Today 7.30pm; £9.

**Sonic Youth**

See Critic's Choice, below.  
*Barrowland*, Galloway (0141-552 4601). Tomorrow 7pm; £10.

**EDINBURGH The Wildhearts**

Punk-metal laddery.  
*Queen's Hall*, Clerk Street (0131-668 2019). Today 7.30pm; £9.

**HALIFAX Terrorvision**

Bradford funk-rockers with a poppy edge.  
*Victoria Theatre*, Wards End (01422-351158). Today 7.30pm; £8.50.

**LIVERPOOL Mike & The Mechanics**

Featuring Genesis guitarist Mike Rutherford.  
*Liverpool Empire*, Lime Street (0151-709 1555). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £14.

**MANCHESTER Babylon Zoo**

Space-age gothery.  
*Manchester Academy*, Oxford Road (0161-275 2930). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £8.

**CRITIC'S CHOICE Sonic Youth**

One of those much talked-about and highly influential acts that consistently under-perform at the box office. Sonic Youth remain big on the fringe, their credentials as the prototype American avant-garde rock band intact.

David Sinclair

*Manchester Academy*, Oxford Road (0161-275 2930). Today 7.30pm; £9.50. Glasgow tomorrow (see above).

**READING Northern Uproar**

Lads wanting to be Oasis.  
*Alleycat*, Gun Street (01744-561116). Today 8pm; £5.

**JAZZ Akasae**

Brazilian-edged jazz.  
*The Vortex*, Stoke Newington Church Street, N16 (0171-254 6516). Today 8pm; £7.

**SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS Scotti**

Tenor-playing linchpin of the US mainstream circuit.  
*Bull's Head*, Lonsdale Road, SW13 (0181-876 5241). Today 8pm; £7.

**John Law's Very Trio**

Avant-garde pianist with

Barry Guy, Louis Moholo and Paul Dunmall.

**Vortex**, Stoke Newington Church Street, N16 (0171-254 6516). Tomorrow 8pm; £4, concs £3.

**Linda Lewis**

Recently elevated 1970s folk-funk diva.  
*Jazz Café*, Parkway, NW1 (0171-344 0044). Tomorrow 7pm; £12.

**Paco de Lucia Octet**

Flamenco guitar king, of John McLaughlin fame.  
*Royal Festival Hall*, South Bank, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Today/tomorrow 7.30pm; £10-£25.

**CLASSICAL Clarke Peters**

*Five Guys Named Moe*'s creator in cabaret.  
*Plaza on the Park*, Knightsbridge, SW1 (0171-235 5550). Today 9pm; £18.

**London Symphony Orchestra**

Brass/Breath/Creets

Brahms, Elgar.  
*Barbican Hall*, Barbican Centre, EC2 (0171-638 8991). Today 3.30pm; £6-£15.

**London Philharmonic/Sawallisch**

Brahms's 1st and 3rd Symphonies.

*Royal Festival Hall*, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £5.50 & £7.50.

**London Youth Wind Orchestra/Copp**

Youngsters sing Britten.  
*Wigmore Hall*, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £7.50-£15.

**National Youth Children's Choir/Corp**

Youngsters sing Britten.  
*Wigmore Hall*, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141). Tomorrow 11.30am; £7.

**National Youth Wind Orchestra/Hanson**

Khachaturian, Lindgren and Rimsky-Korsakov.  
*Queen Elizabeth Hall*, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow 3pm; £7-£10.

**National Youth Wind Orchestra/Sawallisch**

Khachaturian, Lindgren and Rimsky-Korsakov.  
*Queen Elizabeth Hall*, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £5-£8.

**National Youth Wind Orchestra/Sawallisch**

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*Queen Elizabeth Hall*, South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Tomorrow 7.30pm; £5-£8.

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**National Youth Wind Orchestra/Sawallisch**

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## GOING OUT

13

## FAIRS AND SHOWS

## ■ LONDON

**Heritage Antiques Fair**  
Sale and display of a wide range of  
jewellery, silver, glass prints and paintings.  
*Kensington Palace Hotel*,  
De Vere Gardens, W8 (0171-937 8121).  
Tomorrow 11am-5pm; £1.

**London Birdkeeping & Small Animal Fair**  
One-day bird extravaganza with  
everything you could want to know about  
keeping small animals and birds.  
*Alexandra Palace*,  
Wood Green, N22 (0181-365 2121).  
Tomorrow 9.30am-5pm; £5, concs £4, child  
£1, under-fives free.

**London Book Fair**  
Sale of antique and second-hand books  
and prints.  
*Russell Hotel*,  
Russell Square, WC1 (0171-837 6478).  
Tomorrow 2pm-7pm, free.

**Spring Needlecraft Fair**  
More than 150 suppliers of embroidery,  
needlepoint and patchwork gather for this  
major event.  
*Olympia*,  
Hammersmith Road, W14 (0171-603  
3344). Today 9.30am-5.30pm, Tomorrow  
9.30am-5pm; £8, concs £7, child £5.

**■ REGIONAL**  
**BIRMINGHAM**  
**The NEC April Fair**  
Massive antique fair, with more than 500  
exhibitors in two distinct sections, pre-1914  
and pre-1940.  
*National Exhibition Centre*,  
(0121-780 4133). Today 11am-8pm,  
Tomorrow 11am-6pm; £5.

**DUNFERMLINE**  
**Craft & Design Fair**  
Sale and display of some of the best  
contemporary Scottish crafts.  
*Glen Pavilion*,  
(01322-731885). Tomorrow 11am-5pm;  
60p, concs 30p, children free.

**EDINBURGH**  
**International Science Festival**  
Lectures, workshops and discussions as

part of the world's largest science  
festival. Highlights of the festival include the  
Heavenly Scent Exhibition at the Royal  
Museum of Scotland (open daily from 10am-  
5pm) and Megafun With Computers at  
the Science Dome (open daily 10am-5pm).  
Plus there is a session on the Science of  
Baked Alaska (3pm at the Royal Museum of  
Scotland) and the New Zealand  
Flatworm (5pm at the Senate Room).  
*Various venues*,  
(0131-220 3977). Today/tomorrow, phone  
for details.

**Scottish Kit Car Show**  
The only kit car show north of the border  
with more than 1,000 vehicles on display.  
*Royal Highland Centre*,  
(0131-333 2444). Today/tomorrow 10am-  
5pm; phone for prices.

**GATESHEAD**  
**Spring Flower Show**  
Sixth annual flower show with floral  
exhibits, trade and craft stalls.  
*Gateshead Central Nursery*,  
(0191-4901616). Today/tomorrow 10am-  
5pm; £2.80, concs £1.40.

**LINCOLN**  
**Antique & Collector's Fair**  
The best of the region's antiques and  
collectibles with exhibits for sale from 1900  
to the present day.  
*Lincolnshire Showground*,  
(01522 524240). Tomorrow 10am-5pm;  
60p, concs 30p, children free.

**PONTYPRIDD**  
**Model Railway Show**  
Display of railway, engineering and  
other transport models.  
*Pontypridd Historical & Cultural Centre*,  
(01443 409512). Today/tomorrow 10am-  
5pm; £1, concs 50p.

**SHUGBOROUGH**  
**Gamekeepers' Fair**  
Day of events including arena  
demonstrations, gun-dog competitions,  
falconry and clay pigeon shooting.  
*Shugborough House*,  
(01895 881388). Today/tomorrow 10am-  
5pm; £5, child free.



Animal lovers should head for the Birdkeeping and Small Animals Fair in London

## COMING SOON



See Tina Turner in action around Britain

## ■ LONDON

**From April 24**  
**Fidello**  
Graham Vick directs a  
new English National  
Opera production, with  
Kathryn Harries as  
Leonore. London  
Coliseum. Box Office: 0171-  
632 8300.

**May 21, 22, 25, 30, 31**  
**Birmingham Royal**  
**Balies**

Three programmes at  
the Royal Opera House,  
including two works by  
David Bintley — *Carmina*  
*Burana*, showing with  
Frederick Ashton's  
*Birthday Offering* and  
*Far From the Madding*  
*Crowd*. Box Office: 0171-  
304 4000.

**May 22-August 26**  
**Degas — Beyond**  
**Impressionism**

Major retrospective at  
the National Gallery.  
Advance bookings: 0171-  
430 0000.

## ■ REGIONAL

**June, July**  
**Tina Turner**  
Croke Park, Dublin

**June 28, 00 35 31**  
8363222; Murrayfield  
Stadium, Edinburgh  
(Jun 30, 0131-557 6969);  
Gateshead  
International Stadium,  
Gateshead (July 12, 0191-  
478 5555/7777); Cardiff  
Arms Park (July 14,  
01222 230130) Don Valley  
Stadium, Sheffield (July  
18, 0144 279797); Wembly  
Stadium (July 20-21,  
0181-900 1234).

**SCARBOROUGH**  
April 24  
**By Jeeves**  
Alan Ayckbourn and  
Andrew Lloyd Webber's  
musical opera the new  
Stephen Joseph Theatre-in-the-Round, from April  
24-June 1. Box Office: 01723  
370540.

## ■ STRATFORD-ON-

**AVON**  
**From April 17**  
**New RSC Season**  
A new production of *As  
You Like It* at the Royal  
Shakespeare Theatre  
(from April 18) and  
*Webster's The White  
Devil* (from April 17). Box  
office: 01789 29623.

**Thomas Gainsborough**  
First chance to see 50  
drawings together.  
*Courtauld Institute  
Galleries*.

**DUNDEE**  
**The Twentieth-Century  
Gallery**  
Work by James  
Macintosh Parrick.  
*Dundee Art Gallery &  
Museum*.

**Albert Square** (01382  
432020), Sat 10am-5pm, free.

**GLASGOW**  
**Gallery of Modern Art**  
Populist Scottish art.  
*Gallery of Modern Art*,  
Queen Street (0141-531 1854).  
Sat 10am-5pm, Sun 11am-  
5pm; free.

**LIVERPOOL**  
**Home and Away:  
Internationalism and British  
Art 1900-1990**  
Includes work by Stanley  
Spencer, Freud and Bacon.  
*Tate Gallery Liverpool*,  
Albert Dock (0151-709 3223).  
Sat/Sun 10am-6pm, free.

**NOTTINGHAM**  
**Primavera: Pioneering  
Art & Design 1945-1995**  
Includes work by Hans  
Coper and Dan Arbeid.  
*Fitzwilliam Museum*,  
Trumpington Street (01223

## ■ REGIONAL

**BIRMINGHAM**  
**The Posse**  
Highlights from the black-  
comedy circuit.  
*Birmingham Rep.*  
Broad Street (0121-336  
4455). Today 7.30pm, phone  
for prices.

**LUTON:**  
**Simon Day**  
Joined by Tommy Cockles  
and friends.  
*St George's Theatre*,  
St George's Square (01582  
21628). Today 9pm; £9.

**MANCHESTER:**  
**Julian Clary**



Satire with Julian Clary

## ◆ Dead Man Walking

(15)  
Oscar-winner Susan  
Sarandon visits Sean Penn on  
Death Row in this  
powerful drama. Director,  
Tim Robbins.  
*MGMs Baker Street*  
(0171-935 9723) *Fulham Road*  
(0171-370 2636) *Shaftesbury Avenue*  
(0171-836 6279) *Odeon Kensington*  
(0126 94666) *Phoenix* (0181-883  
2233) *Ritz* (0171-737 2121) *UCI*  
*Whiteleys* (0171-792 3332)

◆ Get Shorty (15)  
John Travolta's loan shark  
takes on the movie business.  
Director, Barry  
Sonnenfeld.  
*Clapham Picture House*  
(0171-498 3323) *Empire* (0171-  
437 1234) *MGMs Fulham*  
*Road* (0171-370 2636) *Trocadero*  
(0171-434 0031) *Odeon Swiss Cottage*  
(0126 914098) *UCI*  
*Whiteleys* (0171-792 3332)

◆ Leaving Las Vegas (18)  
Nicolas Cage drinks  
himself to death. Director  
Mike Figgis.  
*MGM Swiss Centre* (0171-  
459 4470) *Odeon Mezzanine*  
(0126 915683) *Plaza*  
(0171-437 1234) *Warner*  
(0171-792 3332)

Nadja (15)  
Dracula's offspring in  
New York.  
*Clapham Picture House*  
(0171-498 3323) *ICA* (0171-  
930 3647) *MGM Tottenham*  
*Court Road* (0171-636  
3366)

## ■ CURRENT

## ◆ Bravestheart (15)

Mel Gibson directs and  
stars in his Oscar-laden

blood-thirsty epic about  
William Wallace.  
*Empire* (0171-437 1234)  
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## COMEDY

## ■ LONDON

**Banana Cabaret**  
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*The Bedford*,  
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## Best in Stand-up

Fred MacAuley MCs.

*Comedy Store*,

Oxford Street, SW1  
(0126 914433). Today 8pm &

midnight; £10.

## ■ CRITIC'S CHOICE

## ★ A five-star guide \*

MINISTER: The Rev Mollie

Greenwood.

SERMON: None here, although the

minister went on to take three more

services that day.

ARCHITECTURE: Spectacular

scenery marred only by the orange

street lights in the valley

below. \*\*\*

LITURGY: Prayers, hymns and

reading. \*\*\*

MUSIC: Bravely attempted hymns,

although the presence of a small

orchestra seemed little short of

miraculous. \*\*\*

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Tea, coffee

and hot-cross buns, consumed with

relish in the Methodist chapel at the

foot of the hill. \*\*\*

SPIRITUAL HIGH: Early-morning

petulance transformed into

acceptance and serenity by the

magnitude of the event. \*\*\*

After our last hymn we offered each

other the peace, and descended the hill,

faintly incredulous that we had walked

miles, climbed a hill and been to church

and it was still only 7.30am.

She prayed for those sleeping in the

valley below, "with all their needs, hopes

and fears".

After our last hymn we offered each

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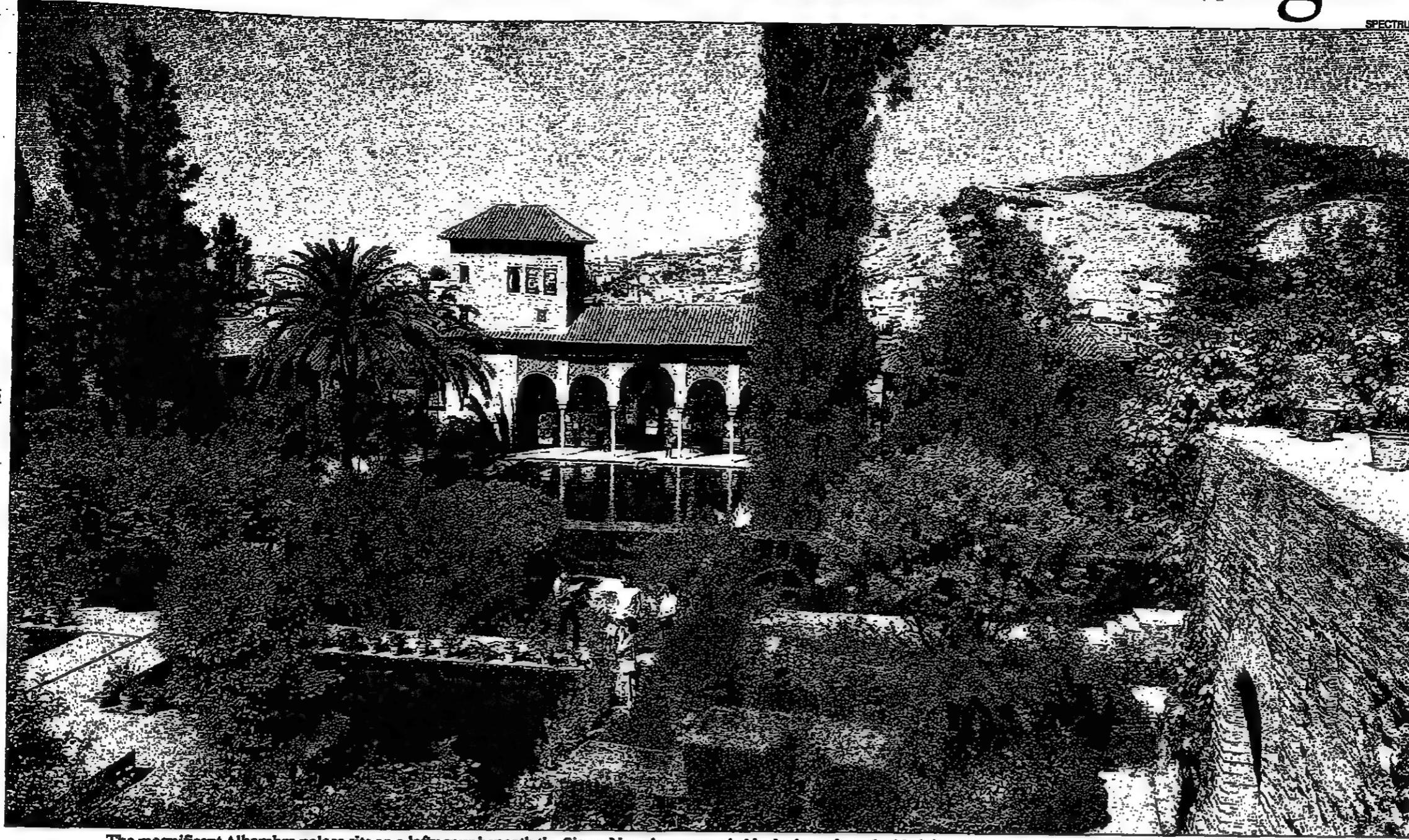


ORT STORIES  
A 1000y  
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blues

## TRAVEL

Spain: the haunting beauty of the Alhambra palace and a dead poet's society make Granada unforgettable

# Echoes of the Moors' last sigh



The magnificent Alhambra palace sits on a lofty spur beneath the Sierra Nevada surrounded by lush gardens. Inside it is a treasure house of exquisite Moorish decorative arts

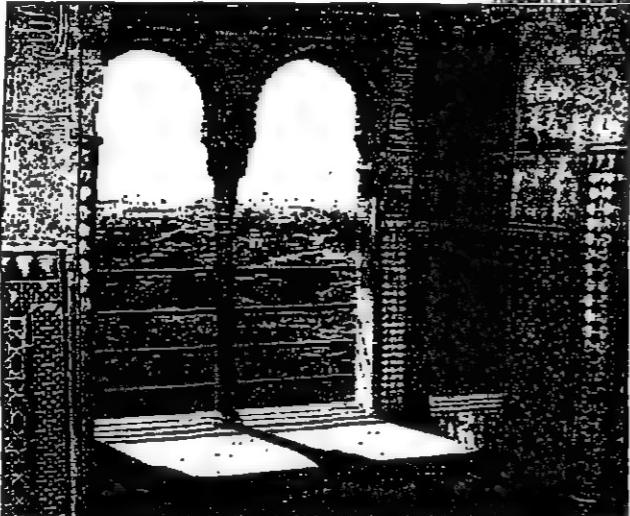
We were going to Granada to visit the Alhambra when Federico Garcia Lorca detained us on the way. "Stop," my wife said, scanning the map. "I think he was born over there, in Fuente Vaqueros."

I pulled off the motorway, leaving the world of whizzing lorries and mighty petrol tankers, and moved into a zone of unexpected rurality. Donkey and mule carts were bringing home fodder for the animals; long streamers of tobacco leaf hung drying in barns; dense groves of poplar swayed in the brisk wind.

It was into this agricultural scene that Lorca, the poet and dramatist, was born in 1898. He was shot dead at the age of 38, in 1936, at the height of his powers in an "execution" by Nationalist thugs in the opening days of the Spanish Civil War.

The Lorca family house in Fuente Vaqueros, about nine miles west of Granada, is now a museum and the village school is called the Colegio Publico Federico Garcia Lorca. All is as it should be. But it is for the imposing Alhambra, rather than Lorca's work, that the richness of the garden valley, the *vega*, is best known.

The Alhambra sits on a defensible spur beneath the lofty Sierra Nevada, lording it over the plains. Inside, it is a treasure house of Moorish decorative arts, with arabesques of seemingly infinite patterns, exquisite ceilings and wall tiles, bound together by an architecture so delicately contrived that the palace



The tiled interior of the Alhambra's Casa Real

seems to float in a state of weightlessness. All of it was based on agricultural wealth, not only the Palatine city on the spur but the more humble city below where ordinary people lived.

Water was essential to agriculture and the Moors were brilliant irrigators and managers of water, so it comes as no surprise that water is a central element of the Alhambra. You feel its presence everywhere, from the Generalfife gardens above, with their long, axial pool, down to the Courtyard of the Lions, where water runs in four channels from delicate, pillared pavilions, to symbolise the rivers of paradise, and the long, dark pool of the Courtyard of the Myrtles, where at night the sultans could see the reflection of their palace and the glimmering stars. Water mean-

find this city melancholy, perhaps because of the historical record. In 1492 Ferdinand and Isabel, the king and queen of Aragon and Castile, captured Granada and put an end to Moorish rule in Spain.

Christian Granada seems to be quite jolly as well as somewhat sad, its moods exemplified by the great number of students at university and language schools, and the presence of the bourgeoisie, so prominent a feature of Lorca's city. If you want, you can sit in the smarter cafés alongside women in fur coats, or join the younger throng in the tapas bars around the Plaza Nueva — at the Trastienda (Behind the Shop), for instance, in adjoining Plaza de Cuchilleros, where you squeeze past a counter selling mountain ham and cheese and take a tiny table in the back; or the rougher, readier Casa Julio across the way at Calle Hermosa, where the speciality is fried anchovies and discs of aubergine. There's also a little street called Calderia Nueva, full of Moroccan cafés serving honeyed cakes and endless varieties of tea in tiny glasses.

If your cultural appetite is not yet satisfied there is the Capilla Real, or Royal Chapel, where Ferdinand and Isabel are buried, under a soaring roof in Isabelline Gothic. Then there is the Charterhouse, a byword for Baroque excess. And the former Hieronymite monastery, now inhabited by nuns of a closed order, its cloister full of Renaissance doorways, its church lined with 16th-century frescoes. We paid a visit one evening and

stood enchanted in the cloister, among sweet-smelling orange trees, while the invisible nuns sang in their closed chapel, their voices rising thin as those of schoolgirls.

Since last year there has been something extra in Granada, an addition for those with an interest in that powerful local talisman, Federico Garcia Lorca. When the Lorca family finally moved from the

vega into a town apartment, they kept a little "country house" about ten minutes' walk away on the city's edge. Here they would spend the summers and, in his simple bedroom overlooking roses and cypress trees, Lorca wrote many of his finest poems and several of his plays. The house, now surrounded by a municipal park and close to a motorway-style bypass, has

just been opened to the public, with Lorca's niece, Laura Garcia-Lorca, as director. Furnished with its original contents — including a tablecloth embroidered in traditional patterns by Lorca's mother — it is a perfectly preserved Spanish interior of the 1920s and 1930s.

Considering the poet's fate,

and the beauty of the verses

that he wrote here, there is

## FACT FILE

The author flew to Spain as a guest of Iberia (£171-£330 001). Return fare for the London-Granada flight (via Madrid or Barcelona) is from £169, plus £5 tax.

In Granada he stayed at the three-star Hotel Guadalupe (00 34 58 223423) as a guest of Travellers' Way (01527 836791). The hotel, adjacent to the Alhambra, offers a double room with breakfast at about £57, plus 7 per cent VAT. Even closer to the Alhambra is the Moorish-style Alhambra Palace (00 34 58 221440, or via Keytel on 0171-402 8182). At the foot of the Albaicin, is the Hotel Triunfo (00 34 58 207441), with B&B from about £57, plus VAT.

One of the best restaurants, serving typical Granada cuisine with a distinct Arabic touch, is the Mirador de Morayma in the Albaicin. In the not-too-fancy category is the Meson Andaluz, Calle Envira 10.

Spanish National Tourist Office, 57 St James's Street, London SW1A 1LD (0171-499 0901).



nowhere in the city — except for the Alhambra — and the memory of its vanished prances — that better signifies Granada's bitter-sweet cocktail of sadness and delight.

"Many Spanish visitors cannot enter my uncle's bedroom," Laura Garcia-Lorca told us. "They just stand on the threshold and weep."

ADAM HOPKINS

## Homes that are as old as the hills

WEST from Granada, an hour or so beyond the place of Lorca's death, you reach cave country — inhabited by troglodytes. Adam Hopkins writes.

Dug into the base of huge clay riverbanks or hills of the same hard clay, these dwellings have as many as eight or ten rooms to accommodate a sprawling family. The rooms all run into one another or are reached by little tunnels, brilliantly whitewashed like the interiors of other Andalusian houses.

Because of the constant year-round temperature of 20F they make comfortable homes, and if you put your kitchen and bathroom on the front, where you will probably have windows in the clay facade, problems of condensation are

minimal. These days, too, all the homes have running water and electricity.

Sadly, the caves fell out of favour during the 1960s and most of those who could afford to move into apartment blocks, leaving behind many empty caves, and some in the hands of the poor.

Enter the Martinez family, building contractors from the strange city of Guadix, capital of cave country. The family has bought a neighbourhood of hillside caves and converted 30 of them into a hotel complex — the Cuevas Pedro Antonio de Alarcón (named after the local man who wrote the tale of the three-cornered hat, source book for *Manuel de Falla's* opera). Rooms have been dug out and made much bigger. The wooden

furniture is painted, local-style, like gypsy wagons. There's a cave dining room serving local dishes and, if it wasn't for a motorway running in the valley beneath, it would be a troglodytic idyll.

The hotel opened last year and I was the first foreign visitor. I'd go back like a shot for the extraordinary landscape of eroded clay and the pleasure of sleeping inside a hill with its views of the Sierra Nevada.

I predict a fashionable future for the caves of the Guadix hinterland.

• Book via Andalusian Charming Hotels (00 34 5 2445591). Cave with two double rooms and kitchen/living room from about £40. Further information: Spanish National Tourist Office 0171-499 0901.

**TRAVEL DIRECTORY**

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PLUS TRAVEL THIS WEEKEND ON PAGES 21-22

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Caribbean: a dream family holiday in Barbados; exploring the haunting landscape of Costa Rica and...

## New hands rock the cradle

The first thing you need after a nine-hour flight is a refreshing dip in the sea. But as I emerged from the foam, I was bleeding and half-blind. I had chanced on a piece of coral and cut myself, and then a stray wave knocked off my prescription glasses, leaving me staggering around in the sand.

And this was just the beginning of our family holiday in Barbados. Could it improve with an 11-month-old baby and an exhausted banker husband in tow?

The answer was a resounding yes. A week at the newly opened Almond Beach Village hotel was the answer to our prayers.

The village opened in December last year to cater for working parents who need a relaxing break with their offspring. As a father of two, Ralph Taylor, managing director of Almond Beach Village and its sister hotel, Almond Beach Club, was well aware of the problems faced by holidaymakers with children. Until the Almond Beach opened, there was nowhere on the island which provided a comprehensive family holiday. Bajan culture is of the "children should be seen and not heard" variety.

If parents were asked to name their ideal holiday facilities, top of their list would be a hotel crèche which opened from 9am-5pm. It would be manned by trained personnel whom you trusted. It would take tiny babies as well as older children. The staff would be happy to prepare bottles of formula and hunt down parents should their children become distressed. There would be cots for afternoon naps and an outside play area.

There would be warm sea and safe swimming off sandy beaches, with adequate shade so little Johnny didn't burn. And baby-sitters to enable soirees at beach-side restaurants at reasonable prices.

There would be good-sized rooms with space for a cot and a fridge to store bottles. Even better would be a "one-bedroom suite" with an adjoining sitting room to double as a baby's bedroom. The restaurants would provide highchairs and the staff and other guests would be understanding and sympathetic.

All this, and more, is provided by Almond Beach Village. For those with older children, the all-inclusive

### FACT FILE

■ The author was a guest of Almond Beach Village, which has 280 rooms and a family centre.

■ Almond Beach resort's all-inclusive holiday includes: return flights and transfers, accommodation, breakfast, lunch, tea, dinner, unlimited wine, beer, branded drinks and soft drinks with lunch and dinner; sports activities; qualified instruction; children's clubs and nursery; evening entertainment; insurance.

■ Prices for a seven-night package: adults from £1,196; there is no charge for children up to 12 staying in parents' rooms. Child flights cost from £393. Children travel free up to



the age of two. The price for the second child depends on room size.

■ Simply Caribbean are experts in tailor-made holidays to the Caribbean. For more information, a brochure or to book, telephone 01423 526887.

sive price means parents don't have to keep dishing out money for ice-creams and popcorn. In an imaginative touch, treats are dispensed every afternoon from a candy-striped bicycle.

Of course, no hotel can deal with the inevitable jet-lag which disturbs children's sleep for the first couple of days. And no hotel can soothe your baby to sleep at 8pm when the little angel thinks it is time for his afternoon outing. Nor can it save you from the unbelievable amount of luggage a baby imposes.

**B**ut whatever horrors the nights bring, the village crèche means that parents can take a siesta during the day to catch up on their sleep. It also ensures that parents can pick 'n' mix their holiday — playing with junior, visiting Villa Nova, Anthony Eden's former home on the east coast of the island. After watching the baby splash around in one of the village's nine pools, you can visit the capital, Bridgetown, and admire Nelson's Column in the main square.

This was indeed the holiday of our dreams. The turquoise sea and white-sand beaches, the scent of

RACHEL KELLY

tropical flowers and old-fashioned Bajan charm all worked their magic. There were some minor gripes. Child monitors would have been helpful. English ones don't have the range for the village's 30-acre site. Dinner time also brought its problems; either you hired a babysitter at £3.50 an hour or interrupted your candle-lit meal to nip back to the room and check that the baby was sleeping peacefully. However, the hotel promises to investigate the problem of monitors.

While the food was excellent, it wasn't baby-friendly. One solution was to buy jars from the local supermarket. Another was to ask a chef in one of the village's four restaurants if he would cook something simple such as scrambled eggs or grilled fish — and more often than not he would oblige.

One important point to remember is that if your baby is over a year old, he or she is unlikely to fit into a British Airways bassinet. Instead, you will have the child on your lap for most of the flight. Smart mothers book a child seat and bring a car seat with them.



Parents are free to enjoy watersports while children are looked after at the Almond Village crèche

## Megaship boost for cheaper cruising

MORE than 350,000 British holidaymakers will cruise the Caribbean and Mediterranean this year, and the travel industry is convinced that by the turn of the century this number will have doubled.

Despite reports of fires in mid-ocean, unfinished maintenance work, ships running into submerged reefs and a "disastrous" start for Thomson in the market, nothing can apparently halt the surge in interest in cruising.

The biggest stimulus to growth has been created by the cheaper voyages offered by the mass-market tour operators. Airtours, for example, has teamed up with the American cruise company Carnival to enable British holidaymakers to fly to Florida, spend three nights in a hotel and then four nights aboard one of the company's "floating resorts" — ten-deck superliners — from £499 per person.

Even as its first chartered vessel, *Sapphire*, was running into problems in the Mediterranean this week, Thomson announced that "following the success of its new Mediterranean cruises" it would be offering trips in the Caribbean on board *Horizon*, a Greek-owned ship in the Celebrity Cruises fleet, from £669 for a week next winter.

"THE advent of charters now brings tropical cruising within reach of a whole new generation of holidaymakers, with prices comparable to many of the most popular Caribbean beach holidays," says Thomson's managing director Charles Newbold.

A 23-night cruise on P&O's flagship *Oriana* costs from £1,995 and holidaymakers spending Christmas and New Year at sea between Monastir and the Seychelles will pay £1,660 per person for a suite on Cunard's *Sea Goddess*.

As the demand grows, however, more islands are having to tackle the problems caused by what amounts to floating blocks of flats (and all too often their accumulated rubbish) arriving at their prettiest ports and then sailing away having contributed little or nothing to the local economy.

HARVEY ELLIOTT



Richly coloured iguanas roam the spectacular landscape

## Explosions of natural beauty

We stood in the moonlight, gazing up at the towering Arenal volcano, its peak shrouded in dark, drifting cloud. It thundered and huffed away like a grumpy old steam engine. Spiralling plumes of reddish-tinted black smoke and ash broke the cloud cover. Red-hot lava glowed on the barren lower slopes.

Our ITC guide spoke decent English and conveyed his disappointment. He wanted us to see the spectacular nocturnal pyrotechnics of a huge eruption. We waited expectantly for an hour or so. "Sorry, no good tonight," he said.

My wife and I made for the truck ready for bed at the nearby mountain lodge. And then the unpredictable giant rumbled and roared. The cloud cleared momentarily to reveal a perfect conical shape, and the peak exploded into a

brilliant fireworks display that blazed in the night sky. It was our last night in Costa Rica, which lies between Nicaragua and Panama and has coastlines on both the Caribbean and the Pacific, and nature had provided an unforgettable grand finale.

This was a memorable trip and, mostly, the memories are fond ones. As a couple of 60-plus-year-olds, we should, perhaps, have opted for a quieter life. We rode roughtrack for four hours on horseback to get to the top of another volcano and down again. We sampled the excitement and nerve-

jangling risks of white water rafting. We thrashed through narrow, log-strewn jungle waterways in a small boat. We drove where signposts were non-existent and the potholes were like mantraps.

It was no rest cure. Costa Rica has miles of deserted golden beaches and a scattering of excellent hotels for those who simply want to laze in the tropical sun. But that is to waste an opportunity to explore and appreciate a country which, in an area about the size of Switzerland, packs in an extraordinary diversity of scenic and climatic changes with flora and fauna to match

— 5 per cent of the world's plant and animal species and 10 per cent of its butterflies.

It boasts more protected national parkland for its size than any other nation, has Latin America's longest unbroken record for democratic government, and abolished its army in 1949.

There is, of course, a downside. Outside the protected areas, the marvelous rainforests are logged, legally and illegally, at an alarming rate.

There are huge foreign debts. Cleared land is needed to grow vital bananas and coffee exports. Crime is mostly petty but a tourist kidnap and one or two attacks on tourist groups have the Government worried. Gun-toting police are in evidence. A drugs problem is linked to financial corruption.

T

hat said, you are undoubtedly far safer on holiday in Costa Rica, among its friendly people, than in many parts of Europe or North America. Get away from the capital, San José, a hot, smelly, traffic-jammed, architectural atrocity, and there is little hassle.

We spent our first week on pre-arranged excursions. If we had known what we were in for we would have balked. We were up before six o'clock each morning to be whisked to our daily destiny, always in the essential 4x4 vehicle.

We took in Cartago, the old colonial capital, and Irazú, the country's highest volcano at 11,265ft, with its weirdly impressive moonscape appearance. Our road to Turrialba

was a mixture of ruts, boulders and mini-craters.

We were warmly welcomed at our mountain lodge berth but our high-altitude night was bitterly cold. Our ride to the top of Turrialba's extinct volcano offered panoramic views of breathtaking beauty above the cloud forest.

White-water rafting on the formidable, rain-swollen Pacuare river meant 30 miles of rocks, rapids and turbulent

rushing water to navigate, all a bit much for beginners. Several tourists went overboard from our little convoy of rafts. We made it, soaked, exhilarated — and mightily relieved.

A small canopied launch took us 50 scenic miles through jungle waterways to Tortuguero, on the humid Caribbean coast. We goggled at howler and spider monkeys.

Continued on next page

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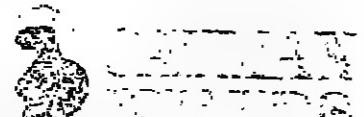
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## TRAVEL

... a luxury cruise aboard the world's biggest liner which oozes style and comfort and caters for every taste

# Princess who won't be weather-beaten

**S**he is big, beautiful... and runs rings round Fidel Castro. The lady in question is the epitome of capitalism, oozing Italian style and brash American wealth: she is the *Sun Princess*, the largest cruise liner in the world.

When you first set eyes on her for the week's cruise — which departs from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to circle Cuba en route to the Bahamas, Jamaica, Grand Cayman and the Mexican island resort of Cozumel — the liner looms so massive from the quayside that she seems more like a de luxe New York apartment block than anything which could possibly put to sea.

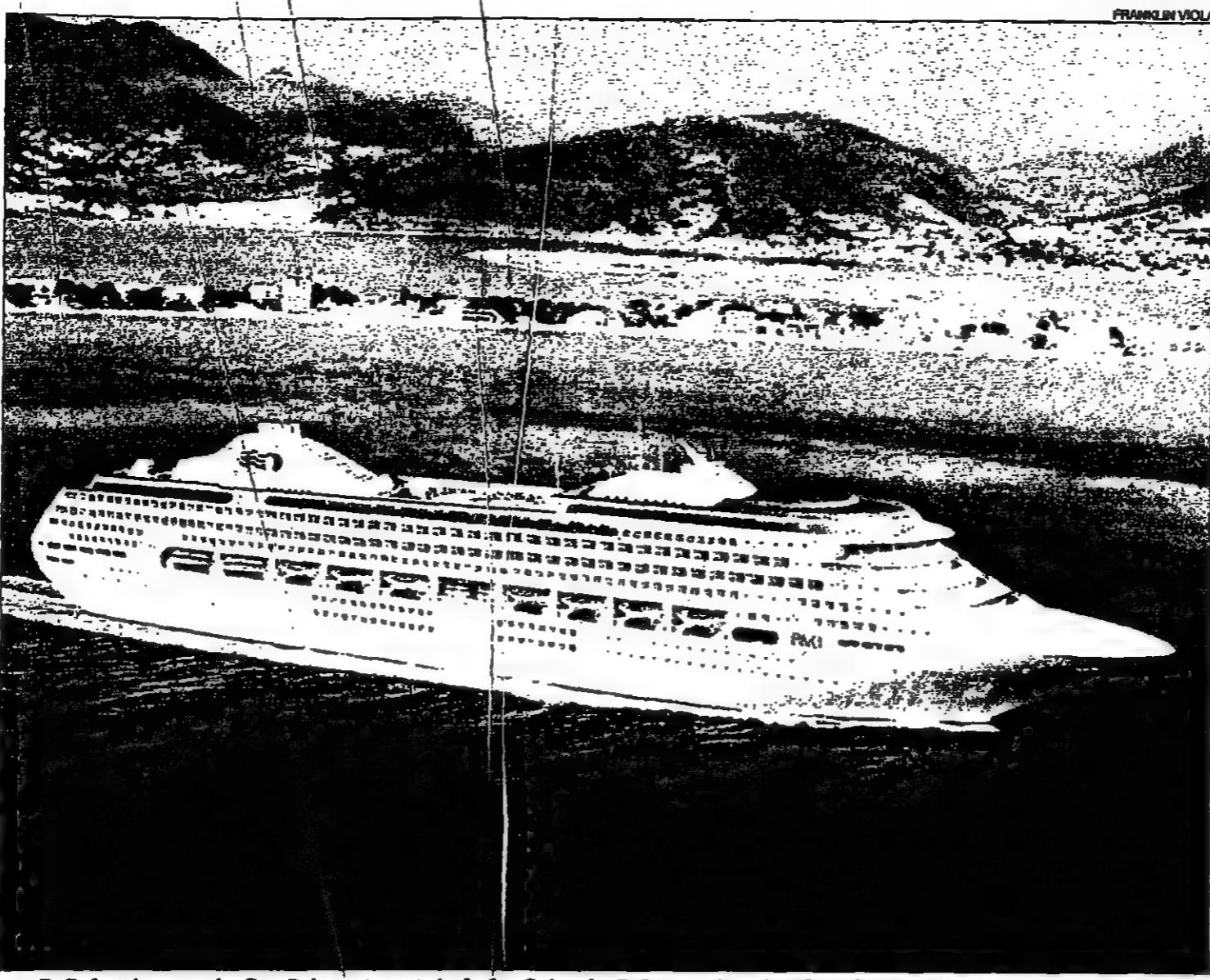
Yet put to sea she does, to a rowdy farfare of hooting and cheering, complete with all the superlatives you might expect — taller than Nelson's Column, enough electric cables to reach from London to Moscow, enough carpets to cover all but two miles of the London marathon route.

The \$300 million (£188 million) P&O *Sun Princess* also carries enough food to make a serious dent in the shortages felt by Cuba's siege-economy islanders, with 600 dozen eggs, 1,500 steaks and 2,000 pounds of pasta consumed by the ship's 1,950 passengers every day.

The Saturday we set sail, the citrus growers of Florida were railing against some of the coldest weather on record, which dragged its coat-tails across the Caribbean. A chilly wind whipped the legs of the optimistically shorts-clad cruise passengers, while a steel band did its best to evoke a tropical atmosphere in the unseasonable cold.

Next morning dawned grey and drizzly, as did the next and the next. As a result, we had to rely on the ship's recreational facilities far more than we would have done had the sun been shining. The first port of call, Princess Cays, a secluded bay on the Bahamian island of Eleuthera, would have been heavily in the heat, but it was a bit like Hunstanton on a bad weekend in the gloom.

Most passengers queued for almost an hour to take one of the *Sea Princess*'s motorised launches for the choppy trip to Princess Cays, wandered forlornly for an hour or two around the only eatery and bar in sight — Hard Rock Café do not eat your heart out, this is the sort of barbecue most village fêtes could manage to outdo — then queued again for the crossing back to the comparative comfort and



Built for pleasure: the *Sun Princess*'s route includes Cuba, the Bahamas, Jamaica, Grand Cayman and Cozumel in Mexico

warmth of the ship. Hardly anyone spent the entire day ashore.

But all this did not mar the marine dream because the *Sun Princess* seems to be one of the few liners which can keep its customers satisfied even on the rare occasions when the weather is poor. Holiday-makers from rival cruise ships whom we met during visits ashore said they felt the service and facilities aboard their vessels were not good enough to make up for the lack of sunshine.

The *Sun Princess* tries to treat its passengers like royalty. There is a canny mixture of space and intimacy, of marbled splendour and relaxed, casual nooks. There is

plenty to do for those feeling energetic and a myriad secluded corners indoors and out for reading and dozing.

**A**ctivities include concerts in two full-sized theatres, on-board shops, gym, tennis courts, Jacuzzis, while our favourite places were the library-cum-reading room, which would do most London gentlemen's clubs proud, and a wood-panelled games room with enough board games and bridge lessons to keep the most cerebrally-oriented occupied. All this as well as a swimming pool and two splash pools.

All the food you could possibly

eat, available 24 hours a day, is included in the price. The *Sun Princess* has two main dining rooms for formal meals, both regal salons with split-level areas which mask any impression of mass feeding even though 1,000 are catered for at a time. There is also a bistro and a pizzeria on this largely Italian-crewed vessel. And if night starvation should still strike, room service is always available in the immaculately kept cabins, which are cleaned twice a day.

There is enough booze aboard to keep a battleship afloat, though the purser says that many holidaymakers, especially Americans, spend the entire week afloat without

spending a penny. For the more hedonistic there are indoor and deckside bars as well as a late-night disco.

After a day swinging around the eastern and southern coasts of Cuba, with the pinpricks of meagre communist electric lights visible from the liner relieved by the brilliant glare of the American military base of Guantanamo, we arrived at a rain-sodden Montego Bay in Jamaica.

In the sun, which must be almost guaranteed most of the time, the organised trips ashore would be tempting — visits to a plantation house or a climb up a spectacular waterfall. But the downpour pro-

vided an opportunity to hire a car and driver to explore Jamaica's interior on what turned out to be Bob Marley Day — the birthday of the late Rasta idol. Jamaicans in every roadside shack selling beer and rum listened with hushed reverence as Bob's mum opined about her son and the sort of food he used to like. At least we returned to the ship after the tour parties who went waterfall climbing in the rain.

Day four brought Grand Cayman, such a pristine and wealthy island that foul weather is probably forbidden under an old colonial by-law. The sun finally appeared but the wind was still having none of

rare, if they do occur, it is usually in September.

■ Cruise tips: most cruises are much more casual than they used to be, although there are usually one or two formal evenings to cater for when packing, which can involve more luggage than other package holidays. However, careful packing is needed because many cruises involve flights to an embarkation port and airlines limit passengers to one or two suitcases and one piece of hand luggage.

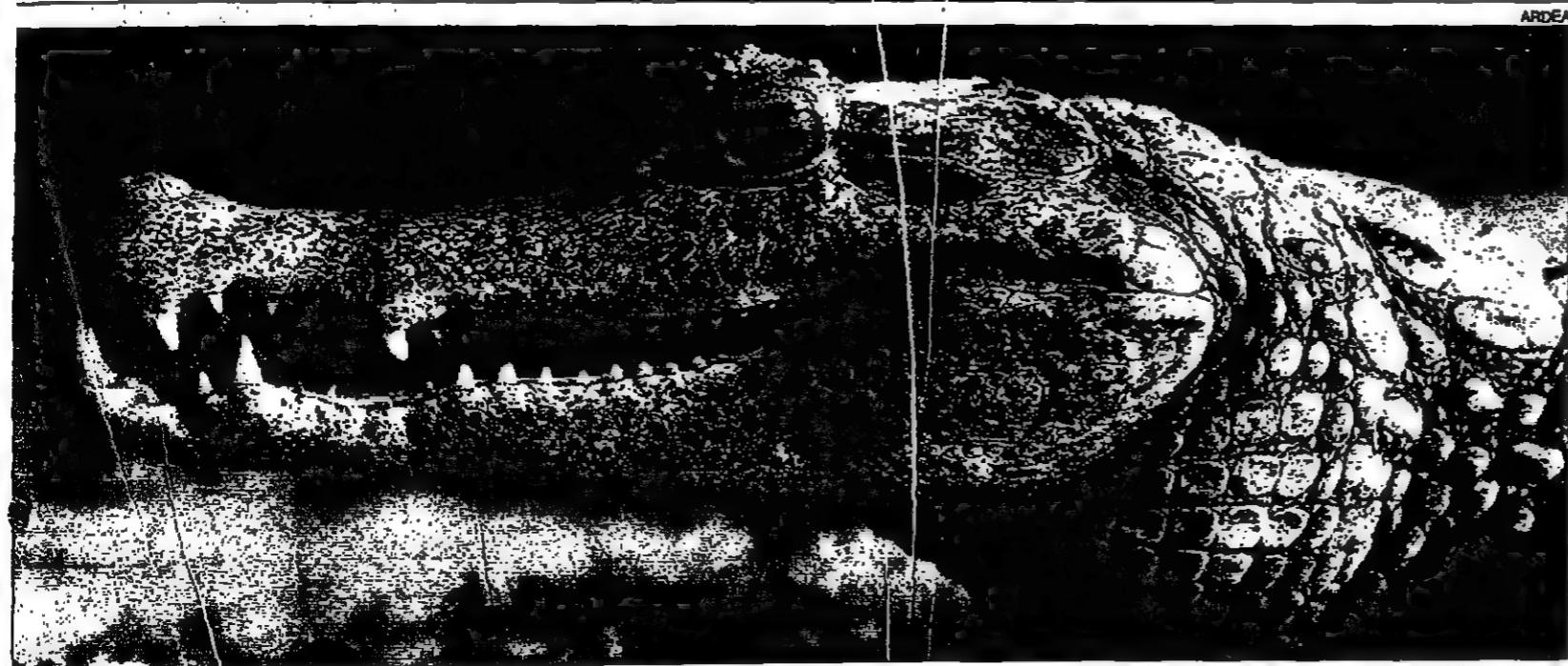
■ Take binoculars to enjoy the best views from the cruise liner when passing close to shore. It is also advisable to take high-factor sun creams and lotions because cooling sea breezes can be deceptive and the sea and ship decks reflect the sun back in your face.

■ Best time to travel: the coolest and driest months are December to April. May, June, October and November are wet, although tropical showers can occur year-round. Although hurricanes are

this holiday lark, and a highlight snorkelling trip to frolic with stingrays was abandoned after a few seconds' assessment of the heavy swell whipping up the sea over the coral reef.

The *Sun Princess*'s passengers finally experienced something approaching tropical heat on the final stopover in Mexico before heading north for Florida again. Toluca and Cozumel lie at the heart of the Mayan Indian culture, which reached its height more than 1,000 years ago. The magic of its past is impregnated in the stones of its temples and villages.

EVE-ANN PRENTICE



Costa Rica is rich in natural beauty — from its birds and animals, such as this spectacled cayman, to fiery volcanoes, rainforests and beaches

Continued from page 16  
crocodiles and caimans, green lizards and iguanas, river turtles and a remarkable variety of bird life.

The star turn was a sloth, hanging by his toes in a riverside bush and munching

nonchalantly on green leaves while we edged within touching distance.

Tortuguero, on the Caribbean coast and accessible only by boat or plane, is an isolated settlement. Turtles nest on its beaches in season. We stayed

at the delightful Manati Lodge, where Lila Figuer's river shrimps in garlic butter were mouthwatering.

We saw uncounted colourful toucans, the handsome and glossy, green-backed, red-bearded trogon, fly-catchers and humming birds. Beautifully hued butterflies fluttered everywhere.

A pre-breakfast boat trip through the dense rainforest brought more wildlife sightings, including the turkey-sized great curassow, a rare bird threatened with extinction.

I drove a hire car for our second week, not without trepidation. But, potholes apart,

driving was no hardship, even though temperatures often soared into the 90s.

We headed for the Nicoya peninsula on the Pacific coast, lounged at the small resort of Tamarindo and, again, by moonlight, watched with incredulity as baby leatherback turtles, hatched from eggs buried 2ft down in the sand, pushed their way to the surface and headed instinctively for the ocean.

At Nosara, the unoccupied beach was idyllic. We bathed in the warm ocean and watched flight after flight of pelicans soar overhead in orderly V-formation.

JOHN GRANT

### HOW TO GET TO COSTA RICA AND LOCAL DETAILS

- The author travelled with Sunvil Holidays (0181-563 4499) and flew from London to Costa Rica with Iberia International Airways (0171-830 0011), changing first at Madrid, and then Miami for San José.
- Other airlines flying to Costa Rica include KLM (0181-750 9000) and American Airlines (0181-572 5555). Return fares from Heathrow start at about £953, but vary depending on the departure date chosen.
- Sunvil Holidays offers a two-week, fly-drive package, including bed and breakfast (full board for out-of-town excursion days during first week), car hire and insurance for two people from £3,700.
- Other companies offering holidays to Costa Rica include Jules Verne Voyages (0171-616 1000), Journey Latin America (0181-742 2320), Reise and Rail, and Tours (0181-742 2320).
- Restaurants, mostly serving French-style food, and bars are to be found in most areas. Hotel prices are not cheap by the usual standards of a developing country. Petrol is cheap, about £1.30 a gallon.

### WORD-WATCHING

#### Answers from Page 23

##### HONDA

(c) The eye at the end of a lasso through which the rope passes to form a loop. Western US from the Wild West and the Spanish *honda* a sling. "Honda" is the loop plaited in the end of a rope to make a running noose. Also the metal grommet or thimble inserted in that loop."

##### MORAN

(c) The warrior group of the Massai tribe which comprises the younger unmarried males, also *il-moran*. The Massai designation. "Their hair is allowed to grow, and as soon as it has grown long enough to plait, they are called *il-moran* (warriors)."

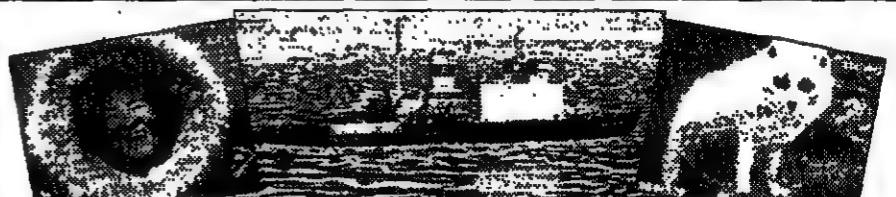
##### NARC

(b) A federal, state, or local narcotics agent. US slang. An abbrev. of *narcotic*. "Bo, a rookie detective, is so confused by the Department's manipulations that he doesn't guess that she is an undercover narc."

##### KELPIE

(a) A smooth-coated, prick-eared, Australian sheep-dog, which may be black, black-and-tan, or red. First bred from imported Scottish collies about 1870. An eponym from an early specimen of the breed. "Lassie was, like all Kelpies, highly strung, with brains under her broad, thin-boned skull."

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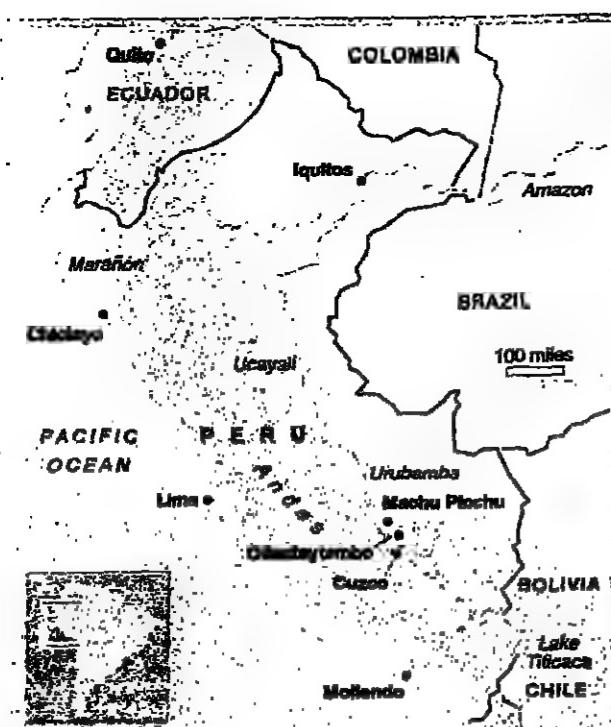
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**Peru:** on the trail of the Incas, master masons whose Lost City is perfectly preserved high in the mountains

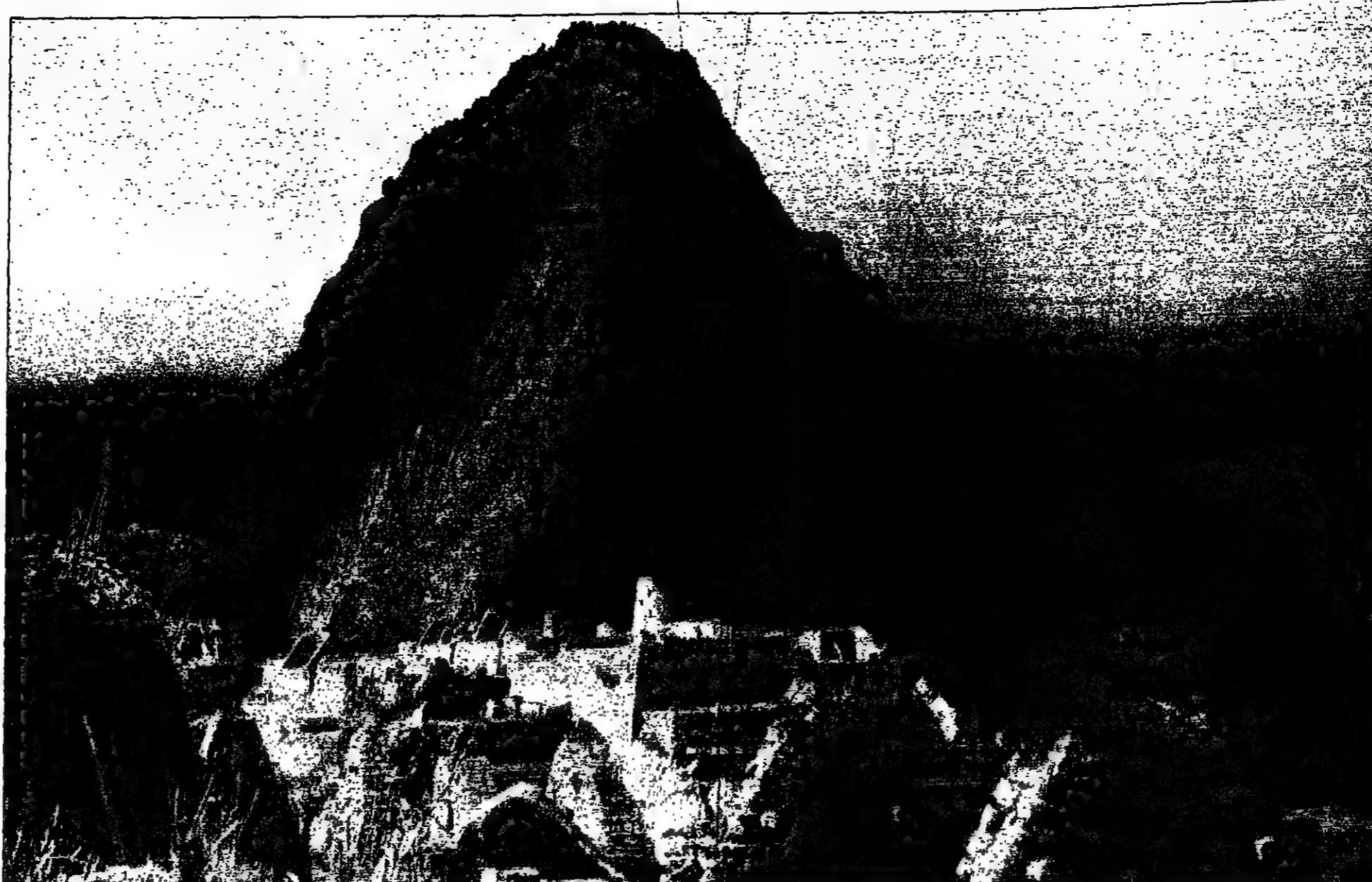
# Exploring the eighth wonder of the world



**T**wo things about Peru are inescapable — the awe-inspiring peaks of the Andes and a dysfunctional past.

From the Cuzco Valley, high in the Cordillera, the Incas ruled an empire stretching from what is now Colombia to central Chile. It was a complex, advanced society until Francisco Pizarro arrived in 1532 at the head of a Spanish army. Emperor Atahualpa, radiant in gold befitting his descent from the Sun, came to meet him in peace. Instead, he was seized by the Conquistadors and his execution marked the beginning of three centuries of domination by Spain.

Pizarro's perfidy is still spoken of as if it happened yesterday and there are visible tensions between the native Indians and those of Spanish descent. The slaughter of the Indians was on a genocidal scale and their descendants



The atmospheric Machu Picchu, the Lost City, was abandoned by the Incas before the Spanish arrived. The complex contains immaculate temples, palaces and houses

show grim satisfaction when they point out Pizarro's remains, displayed in a plain coffin in Lima Cathedral with a separate box for his head. The unfortunate man was assassinated by natives in 1541. The conquest took 30 years of bloody fighting. A rebellion failed in 1572 and the last rising was as late as 1780, not long before the 19th-century war of liberation from Spain.

Cuzco city is an hour's flight from Lima. The Spanish destroyed the Inca capital but built their own churches and palaces on the same foundations. Thus a Dominican friary stands on the remains of the Temple of the Sun, and there are walls of Inca stonework, each massive block crafted to perfection, shoring up supermarkets and discos in side alleys. The Incas were master masons but never discovered either the wheel or writing, so there are no histori-

cal records and much of their way of living remains a mystery. Outside Cuzco, the valley is littered with more substantial Inca remains: temples, baths, aqueducts and the towering fortress at Ollant-

aytambo. The most dramatic site is Machu Picchu, the Lost City mythologised as the El Dorado of the Andes. It stands on a small plateau, surrounded by mountains swirling in cloud, and has been abandoned since before the Spanish came. No one knows why.

As a result, Machu Picchu

railway, and there is a campsite by the station. Leaving aside the Inca legacy, life in the villages and countryside is picturesque but painfully poor — often mud-brick shacks with no electricity, running water or sanitation. The grazing llama and alpaca have a melancholy look, but their owners, wrapped in traditional rainbow-coloured ponchos, are friendly. Their markets are a good place to buy an alpaca blanket or sweater.

International flights mostly

go to Lima, founded by Pizarro on the narrowest of coastal

visible in churches on every corner, a vast Franciscan monasteries and the austere cathedral on Plaza de Armas.

If you have time for only one

museum, Enrico Poli is your man.

Mr Poli arrived from Italy 47 years ago and has

never returned. His private

collection includes artefacts

dating as far back as 300 BC

— magnificent gold from the Inca period and later religi-

ous art.

The collection is housed in

his home at Lord Cochrane

46b in the suburb of

Miraflores. Admission is by

appointment (phone 4222427)

and br £6.50 he shows you

round personally.

Eating out is inexpensive

and can be excellent; broadly

Spanish with some spicy local

dishes. Dinner with wine at a

local restaurant in the Cuzco

valley costs £4 a head, while

eating under the stars at La

Ermita in Lima's Barranco

equals the best of Mediterranean

seafood and atmosphere,

for about £12.

Peru is not for the faint-

hearted. Transport can be

head-bangingly unreliable,

and theft on the streets is rife

in Lima, as is drug-pushing.

But you can minimise prob-

lems by carrying your money

in a body-belt and keeping on

the beaten track.

Some, not always young,

travellers backpack and see

the country cheaply using

buses. Haulage trucks also

pick up passengers for a few

Soles. A double room for a

night in a pension costs about

£4.50. For more comfort and

predictability, it is best to

arrange a package, covering

flight, accommodation and

internal travel through a special-

ist operator such as Journey

Latin America or Kuoni.

Michael Hartland



Young boys celebrate a religious festival in Cuzco

## FACT FILE ON PERU

■ The author was a guest of KLM and Journey Latin America.

■ Flight only: KLM flies from Heathrow and 13 regional airports, via Amsterdam, to Lima. Booked through Journey Latin America from £545 (June-September) £655 081-77 3108.

■ Packages: Journey Latin America, 14-15 Devonshire Road, London W4 2HD (081-77 9315), 12 days (including flights from £1,542. Kuoni Travel, Dorking, Surrey RH5 4AZ (01306 740888), 15 days including flights from £1,976. Baileys Tours, Junction Road, Dorking, Surrey RH4 3HB (01306 885999), 16 days including flights from £2,399.

■ As Peru is just south of the Equator, the only significant climatic difference is between the wet and dry seasons. The dry season (May to September) is obviously best for walking or trekking in the Andes.

■ Useful reading: the *Lonely Planet Travel Survival Kit* for Peru, price £8.95.

■ Health: vaccination for typhoid and, in some areas, malaria protection — consult your GP.

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## Soaring buzz of first-time gliding

**L**ightning fractures the sky above Lasham and thunder rumbles around the airfield. We are grounded in the lecture room as Clive Thomas, a flying instructor, explains basic meteorology and the principles of rising air, the invisible force that holds gliders aloft.

It is a morning for considering theory rather than flying. Who would want to be launched skywards on half a mile of steel wire in a thunderstorm? "The best lightning conductor in Hampshire," Mr Thomas says.

Other dangers threaten. Those black-based cumulus clouds overshadowing the airfield are citadels of violence, five miles high, perhaps, and filled with ice-laden, hurricane-force winds able to suck an aircraft into their centre and destroy it.

There is a story about a German pilot who entered one of these grim fortresses in the hope of setting a new altitude record. When his glider started to disintegrate, he baled out, opened his parachute and overlooked the remains of his aircraft — going up.

So much for high ambition. There are old pilots and bold pilots, the saying goes, but no old, bold pilots.

On the airfield the gliders are tied down against the wind as pilots search the sky for the clues that will tell them the weather front is clearing. In that ability lies the essence of the sport: spotting those often subtle meteorological clues and accurately reading the sky. The fastest readers develop the quickest instinct and make the best pilots.

"I know, of no other sport that has such a conjunction of man and nature, where the glider becomes an extension of you and you become an extension of the air around you. It is silent and graceful and, when things go right, a sublime buzz," one pilot replies when I ask him why he is so enthusiastic about being jerked into the air without an engine.

Gliding is the most well-established of the aerial wind sports, which have sub-divided into paragliding, hang-

gliding, parascending, skydiving and parachuting. However slender the aircraft may look, in the air they are immensely strong.

By the afternoon the weather front has moved away and the sun breaks through. The ground starts to heat up and generate bubbles of warm air which rise in thermals and condense into dumpy, cotton-wool clouds.

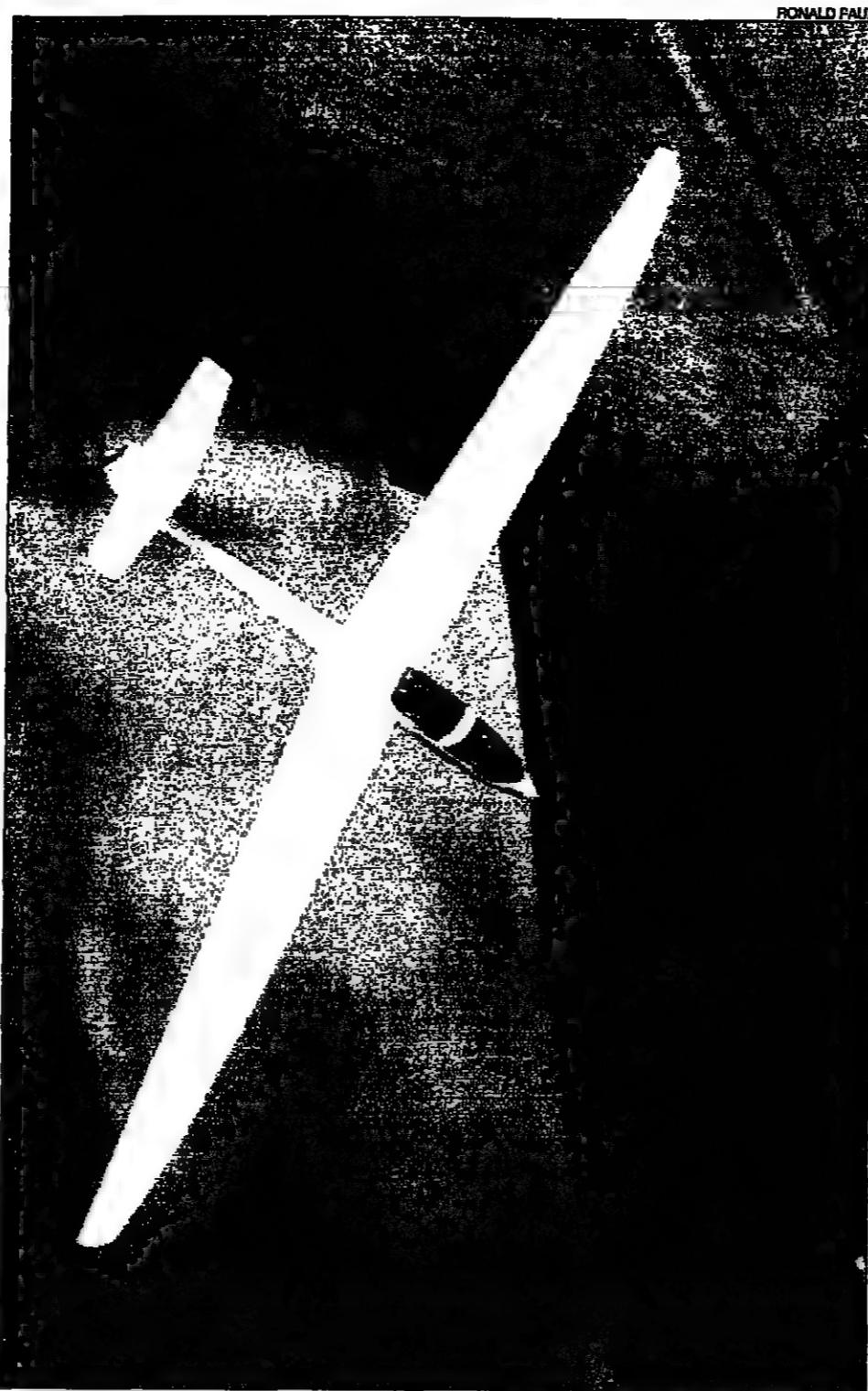
We strap ourselves into the narrow cockpit of the K13 trainer, check the controls as the tow cable is hooked to the keel. The distant winch takes up the tension and then hauls us steeply into the air. We climb faster than the Space Shuttle, according to Mr Thomas. At 1,400ft we arrive directly above the winch and the nose starts to dip. I release the cable and the glider settles on the wind, the only sound being the rush of air over the soft span of wings.

**A** head, a cloud with a base the colour of a bruise looks promising. Another glider is already circling beneath it. We approach and feel the patch of rough air that is the precursor of a healthy thermal and seconds later the left wingtip is jolted upwards.

"Go now," Mr Thomas says, and I thrust the glider into a steep left bank, trying to coordinate feet and hands so that the turn is smooth and we do not skid out of the thermal, an invisible cone of lift which is drifting with the wind. We are trying to track the narrow lower core so the horizon is spinning wildly. The instruments indicate that we are climbing 700ft a minute.

The wider reaches of the thermal require flatter turns and at 3,200ft mist spatters the canopy, signalling that we have reached the point where our thermal is condensing into a cloud. The first glider has already headed away in search of more rising air and beneath us another slim pair of wings have begun to climb the same winding escalator that we have taken.

Thermals are only one of the "engines" a glider may use.



Another glider starts to climb the thermal escalator that the writer has just taken

They can cruise for hours in the ridge lift created when wind accelerates up the face of a cliff or, more spectacularly, climb into the stratosphere using the air currents that cannon in waves from mountain ranges. The world record altitude reached in a glider is more than 46,000ft.

The basic course at Lasham avoids such lofty heights. There are three of us students in Mr Thomas's care and the next will be waiting to fly. Down nose and tail up we are soon in the circuit 800ft above the airfield.

Even the basic training gliders are so aerodynamic they will lose only one foot of height for every 40ft of forward flight. High performance gliders, the albatrosses of the sport, stretch this glide angle to

60ft for the loss of only one vertical foot.

"Some days you get the impression they just don't want to come down," Mr Thomas says. To neutralise this inclination to float for ever more, I pull on the air brakes and couple of small steeple-chase hurdles spring from the wings. There is a roar as the smooth airflow is broken and the glider stops floating and starts falling.

We turn steeply into wind and ahead the landing area is clear. Just as well: we are now in the grip of Newton's law without an option.

The glider's skid drops gently into the grass and we slide smoothly to a halt. The lesson is over.

RONALD FAUX

**● The author was a guest of Lasham Gliding Society, Lasham Aerodrome, Alton, Hampshire GU34 5SS (01256 381322/381270). Courses run from April to end of September. Tuition from £135 for two days.**

**● Details of more than 90 gliding clubs are available from the British Gliding Association, Kimberley House, Vaughan Way, Leicester LE1 4SE (0116 531051).**

## Literary double act on fictional facts

If you're the kind of person who spends more time deciding which books to take on holiday rather than which clothes, Bloom Reading Holidays will sound like bliss: a week in a rural retreat with nothing to do but read books, talk books, eat and drink, and enjoy the countryside. A reading list around which discussions will be based is provided, so you needn't even worry which books to take.

We gathered at Ty Newydd (the New House) in the small village of Llanystumdy, near Criccieth, northwest Wales. Ty Newydd was the last home of David Lloyd George, whose grave is beside the tree-lined lane that leads from the house to the village. His resting place, marked by a large and simple lichen-covered stone, looks over the Dwyfor river.

Ty Newydd today is more usually filled with writing courses, though it was emphasised from the start that we were on a holiday, not a course. Over supper we met the week's two writers: Beryl Bainbridge and Bernice Rubens. They have taught at writing courses together so often that they form a regular double act, a kind of literary Morecambe and Wise.

After supper they were keen to discover who we were and what had brought us there. Anne was an academic, prone to skim-reading to get at the facts; she wanted to learn to read fiction more slowly. Sue and Jean were regular visitors to the Dartington Literature Festival in Devon, and liked the idea of lengthier contact with two of their favourite authors, while Carole, a psychologist, said she wanted more direction in her reading; the course, she said, sounded like fun.

Fun it was, with Rubens revealing that she likes Mills and Boon, and wondering why there was no porn on the recommended reading list. "Pornography is interesting. I found a copy of *The Well of Loneliness* under my mother's mattress, so naturally I read it more than once. If it's under a mattress it has to be interesting."

She offered other thought-provoking comments: "I don't think writers improve after their first book. I think writing is the only thing which practice doesn't make perfect."

As the discussion shifted to *Wuthering Heights* and the smouldering Heathcliff, Carole brought her psychologist's experience to bear and insisted: "*Wuthering Heights* has a lot to answer for. It does not lead to good relationships."

Bainbridge wondered if



Bainbridge: a street fan

there was such a thing as a good relationship.

The double act, sensitive writers both, shared a passion for *Coronation Street*. "Has anyone seen tonight's episode? Did Jack and Vera get the pub?" they wanted to know.

"I don't believe I'm hearing this," Carole said.

Morning sessions began at ten o'clock, after a DIY breakfast in the kitchen. We each introduced our favourite books, and it was a delight for me to meet again titles I'd read before, such as Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and Marquez's *One Hundred Years of Solitude*. A re-read list built up in my notebook.

Afternoons were free, and evenings began with pre-dinner drinks and ended wherever the book talk took us. From *Holocaust* literature to the merits of Jeffrey Archer.

One night we played charades, limited to book titles and with a ban on "sounds like". I shall treasure the

memory of Bainbridge whistling for a cab and stepping into it for *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.

Sessions were held in Ty Newydd's library, which looks out over lawn and cow pastures down to the sea, a ten-minute walk away. To the left lay the cliffs beyond Criccieth, and one afternoon I walked along the beach to where a colony of cormorants and a solitary heron stood in the breaking waves.

As I walked I was mentally composing the list of Top Ten books we had all been asked to present to the group. I was astonished that writers I considered comparatively lightweight, such as Margaret Drabble and Susan Hill, appeared in some people's lists of all-time greats, while other lists reminded me to re-read Thomas Hardy and to read Brian Keenan's *An Evil Cradling*.

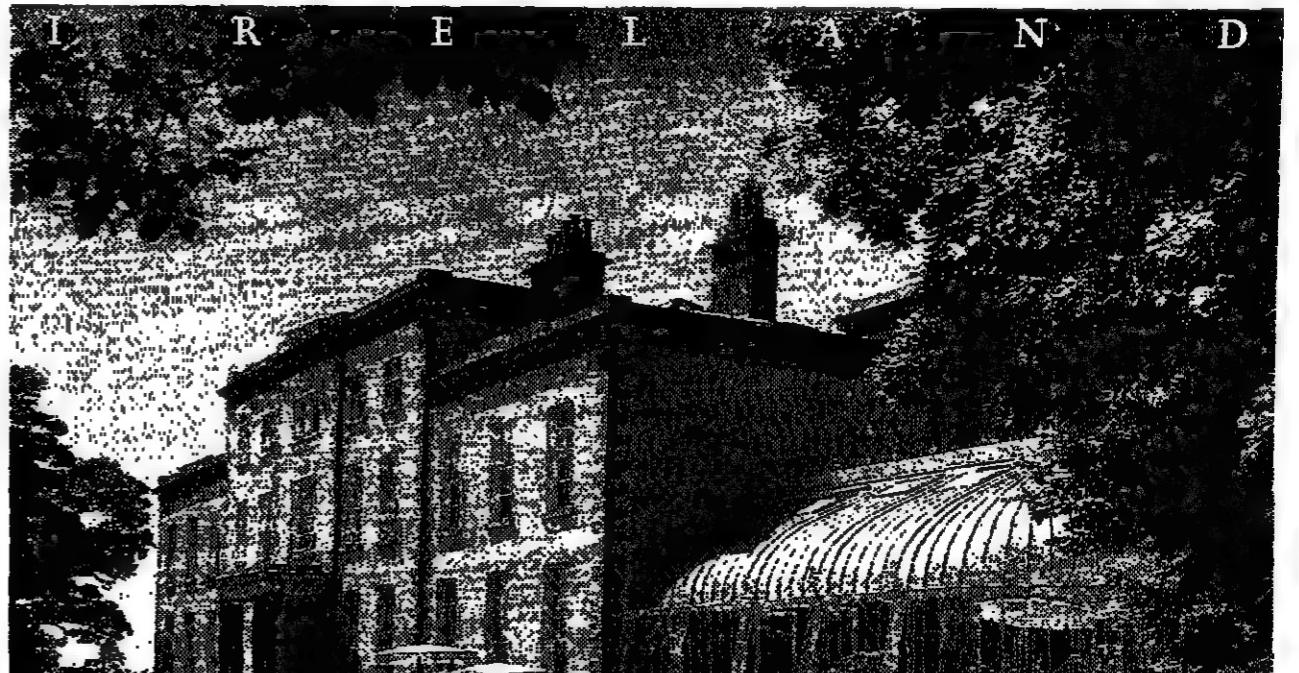
**A**t the start of the week I had two thoughts: first, that it would be a relaxing break of book talk, and second, that at the end of it I could put aside the reading list and get back to my own choices. The first thought proved true, but the second was hopelessly optimistic.

I returned home with a love of reading renewed, and a list as long as a Booker judges': *Beloved*, *Lie Down in Darkness*, *Crossing the River*, *Herzog*, *Return of the Native*, *What's Bred in the Bone*, *Wuthering Heights*... And a realisation that I now needed a Reading Year, not just a Reading Week.

**MIKE GERRARD**

**● The author was a guest of Bloom Reading Holidays. Courses in 1996 include Stan Barstow and Diana Griffiths at Ty Newydd (May 27-June 2) and, at Meadowhead House in Scotland, Carol Cleveland and Jim Friel (July 24-Aug 4). Barbara Trapido and Iain Crichton Smith (Aug 5-11), and Lesley Glaister and Mark Ellis (Oct 21-27). The cost is £325 full board.**

**● Details of Bloom Reading Holidays: c/o West Craft, Ratho, Midlothian EH22 5FB (0131-333 4577). Details of writing courses at Ty Newydd on 01766 522811 (fax 01766 522485).**



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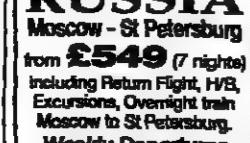
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## TRAVEL

Readers share their experiences of the hard-sell tactics used by some timeshare operators



Madeira, the island where Jack Henfrey and his wife were impressed by a salesman's presentation of a new timeshare complex and put down a £500 deposit. A decision they were to regret.

## Beware the timeshare trap

**C**harles Dodd, of Calne, Wiltshire, responded to a telephone survey on holidays two months ago. A few days later he was phoned again by a man representing an advertising agency and told he had won a seven-day, luxury holiday for two in the Canaries, the Balearic Islands or Portugal. The holiday was his on condition that he and a partner attended a two-hour timeshare promotion in Exeter.

"Confident of our ability to withstand the blandishments of a timeshare salesperson, my partner and I decided to risk the trip," Mr Dodd writes.

On a Saturday later that month, Mr and Mrs Dodd presented themselves at offices in Exeter. They were shown details of developments in the Canaries (the only holiday location offered to them) and informed about timeshare properties. The saleswoman then told them that "if we wanted to go ahead with the purchase, we had to sign up and pay the deposit before we left. After that the offer is gone," she said. "There is no second chance... You can't go away and think about it, you have to make a decision now!" Mr Dodd decided to leave without making a pur-

chase. He has been offered a holiday but it will not be free.

"The saleswoman must have meant that the price was a one-off offer," says Diana Hanks, consumer services manager of The Timeshare Council (TTC), the official UK body for the timeshare industry. If Mr Dodd had agreed to a purchase at the presentation, he could still have gone away and thought about it. "According to the Timeshare Act 1992, there is a mandatory cooling-off period of 14 days, during which the purchaser may withdraw from the agreement," Ms Hanks says.

Similar cooling-off periods

also exist in France, Portugal and the United States, and are under discussion in the Canary Islands. The rest of Europe will be covered by the European Timeshare Directive, scheduled for April 1997, which calls for a cooling-off period of ten days and for measures to prevent the sellers receiving any advance payments in this time.

Until this is implemented, however, some timeshare companies are trying to take advantage of grey areas within the law. Madeira, for example, has provided some tricky cases where, although the potential buyer has with-

drawn within 14 days, the timeshare company has returned only part of the deposit and withheld the remainder to cover administration costs.

Jack Henfrey and his wife, who live in Cambridge, were on holiday in Madeira last May. They were impressed by a salesman's presentation of a new village timeshare complex near Funchal and put down a £500 deposit. Although the salesman had insisted the money had to be paid that day, the couple had been reassured by his explanation that "we had nothing to lose, for we had a fortnight's cooling-off period."

When the couple finally received a note to confirm details for a proposed visit in January 1996, "The figures bore no resemblance to the stories of cheap flights and accommodation open to members of the timeshare. My wife and I decided that we should pull out without delay."

Some days later, the Henfreys paid a second deposit of £545, which wasn't due until September 1995.

"During the following days, we naturally had some queries, but then found it was never possible to meet the salesman to discuss them," Mr Henfrey says.

When the couple finally received a note to confirm details for a proposed visit in January 1996, "The figures bore no resemblance to the stories of cheap flights and accommodation open to members of the timeshare. My wife and I decided that we should pull out without delay."

They waited four hours for a meeting with the salesman. "We were bullied and told that we were out of the cooling-off period, that the salesman had confirmed this with the company lawyer and that the company that owned the timeshare group and many hotels in Madeira and Portugal were immensely wealthy and powerful."

After an exchange of solicitors' letters, the company acknowledges that the Henfreys were within the cooling-off period, but it is still

withholding £315 of their money.

Although resorts in Madeira should come under Portuguese law, some claim to have chosen a separate Isle of Man jurisdiction, which allows them to retain a part of the deposit. Ms Hanks says that regulations should be in place at the end of July that will make it clear whether all or part of the deposit is refundable.

Meanwhile, buyers should make sure that this point is explained before they hand over any money.

More than three million households own timeshares at more than 4,000 resorts around the world, and most are apparently satisfied with their timeshare holidays.

Many say that they would buy again, so these examples of determined salesmanship appear to be the exception rather than the rule.

Much lounging inspiration has come from Britain, particularly the Living Room in Soho, where Londoners drap across sofas to a background of easy listening music. Similar establishments have opened in Paris — Le Lounge Club du Zebra Square and Le Café de la Musique — and

have raised *Le Lounging* to the height of chic.

Lounging is the lazy version of cafe society: it must be done in public with good friends and as little mental effort as possible. Conversation must be relaxed. Over-enthusiastic debates are frowned on.

Le Lounge Club is the finest example of the genre in Paris. The long smoking-room-cum-lounge is painted midnight blue, with enormous leather Chesterfields and armchairs on a wooden floor. Its murky interior suits those conducting illicit affairs because you can barely see further than the bottom of *Le Long Drink*.

Cocktails are much favoured and there is often a pianist or CDs of Frank Sinatra, Paul Anka, Nat King Cole and cheesy Europop from the Fifties.

The owner, Patrick Diderian, says he wanted to create "une ambiance musicale très crooner".

The fashion-able habit of lounging has also meant a renaissance for the glorious bar of the Hotel Lutetia on the Left Bank. The womb-like room is panelled with mahogany in the style of a grand ocean liner, with an art deco painting of the *Lutetia* cruise ship.

The marguerites, kirs and martini's are correctly executed and the chairs comfortable. The hotel is a time warp; it harboured the Gestapo in the war, was liberated by the Americans (among them Hemingway), and then housed refugees. Now it is lounge central. The Lutetia is in strolling distance of the Bon Marché department store and Prada on the Rue du Grenelle for those who wish to slob and shop.

It is uplifting to realise that Parisians recently learnt the art of slobbing around from Britain, just as the British learn about culture from France. This is one of the few successful exchange mechanisms in the European Community so far.

• Lounge Club du Zebra Square, 1 Rue de Boulaingvilliers, 75016 (open Thurs, Fri and Sat evenings). Le Café de la Musique, 313 Avenue Jean-Jaurès, 75116. Lutetia Hotel Bar, Rue de Sevres/Babylone, 6th.

## Paris chic? Watch the French loaf

A new weekly column on the pleasures available just a rail journey away

TAKE any Sunday night Eurostar back from the Gare du Nord to Waterloo and you will hear British couples triumphantly relating the intellectual ground covered in Paris — the Corot exhibition, the Louvre, the Opéra Bastille... they might as well have a big C for culture sewn on their coats. The once relaxing weekend abroad has become a terrifying instrument of enrichment.

I know this because we secretly give our guests in Paris a culture count when they appropriate our sofa-bed in the Rue du Bac. The highest rating so far was earned by two academic types who, in the space of 48 hours, saw a one-woman show inspired by the works of Simone de Beauvoir, the Musée d'Orsay, the Jeu de Paume, a matinée of the latest Peter Brook play and a three-hour film in Serbo-Croat. They also deposited a

cheap houseplant on the grave of the Russian writer Zamiatnikov and had dinner in one of the oldest bistros by the Bastille. For this, they scored the full ten points.

Imagine then the delight at discovering what Parisians really do in London: "I recently took a return trip on the Eurostar," says a reader in the hip magazine *Nova*. "I spent the day in bed there with a friend watching British television and eating pizzas."

This kind of passive resistance, this valuing of consumption over cultural consumption, can only be admired. Why should there be an imperative to achieve while on holiday? I am not necessarily suggesting that visitors to Paris should remain in their hotels ordering from room service — this is only possible in the very early stages of a relationship — but there is a lot to be said for lounging around.

Much lounging inspiration has come from Britain, particularly the Living Room in Soho, where Londoners drap across sofas to a background of easy listening music. Similar establishments have opened in Paris — Le Lounge Club du Zebra Square and Le Café de la Musique — and



by KATE MUIR

## A world of entertainment on offer

Jill Crawshaw on Himalayan cycling tours and other holiday news and bargains

### CUT-PRICE LONG-HAUL

HOLIDAYS to Kenya, Goa, Sri Lanka and the Caribbean will cost less than many similar packages to the Canary Islands, Cyprus and even the Spanish Costas next winter. Thomson Holidays (0171-707 9000) is offering two weeks' B&B in Goa from £439, Sri Lanka from £495 and two weeks' on Kenya's coast from £509 (£439 in May).

In the Caribbean, if you are prepared to self-care, you can spend two weeks in Antigua for £499, in Jamaica for £525 or Barbados for £569. All-inclusive holidays in the Dominican Republic start at £525 for 14 days.

### MISSISSIPPI MANSIONS

ANTIQUE dining tables, the best china and silver, plus traditional southern breakfast with mine host are promised at some of the 120 pre-Civil War plantation homes and Victorian mansions listed in the new Mississippi Bed & Breakfast Guide from the Mississippi Information Line (01462 440787). Many of the properties are listed buildings.

### WORKING IN OZ

GOOD news for people under 27 wanting to work in Australia on holiday and recently refused working visas when the quota ran out: an extra 9,000 visas have been allocated until July 1, when the new increased annual quota of 42,000 comes into effect. Australian High Commission, 0171-379 4334.

### IT'S NOT OVER

ADDICTS take heart — there should still be plenty of snow for a skiing holiday on the Stubai Glacier in



Pavarotti sings in the Caribbean

Austria for the Spring Bank Holiday, though conditions could get mushy in the afternoons. Alpine Tours (0127 454777) offer a week's B&B in Mieders from May 25, travelling by coach, and including lift pass and insurance.

### GRAND PRIX\*

FOLLOW Damon Hill's hopefully triumphant progress towards the Grand Prix title with Motor Racing International (01304 612424), who cover all the events of the season. For the European Grand Prix at Nürburgring on April 28, a coach-tour quickie (out Saturday, back Monday morning) costs £69, plus £65-£250 for tickets to the race. Three rather more comfort-

able nights with B&B at a hotel in Koblenz and travelling by air, costs £369 plus tickets.

### KE ADVENTURE

Travel (01768 73966) have permission from the Chinese Government for the first group to cross the Himalayas by mountain bike, starting in Pakistan, and travelling through Tibet down to Nepal, via the Kailash Mountain, one of the holiest mountains for Hindus and Buddhists. Holidaymakers need to be fit, though there's a support vehicle. The tour lasts from September 7 until October 6. The fully inclusive price is £3,495.

### EARLY BOOKING

CARIBBEAN Connection (01244 341131) have tickets to the Barbados Opera Festival for Easter next year, with prices from £1,979 for seven nights with half-board at Tamarind Cove, including flights and tickets. Pavarotti sings on Easter Sunday (March 29) beneath the stars in the gardens of Holders Hill, a 17th-century former plantation house.

### SPECIALIST BARGAINS

PLenty of holiday bargains are currently available — even from small and specialist companies. Until July, Far East specialists, Premier Holidays (01223 516677) have cut the price of a seven-night half-board holiday to Sri Lanka to £495.

Chalia (0181-686 5533) offers self-catering apartments in Umbria until early May, reduced from £133 to £99, while Cadogan Holidays (01703 322661) have a reduction of £50 per person on holidays in Gibraltar. A seven-night stay until May 22 now costs £256, or £443 for a fortnight, with other reductions until the end of June.



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In the pecking order

WEEKEND SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

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## GAMES

### CHESS

by Raymond Keene

**GAMES** in simultaneous displays, where a champion takes on several opponents at once, often elude the chess theoreticians. However, concealed in these less formal competitions there are often gems which may have an important bearing on the proper assessments of critical variations. A case in point was this win of Kasparov's, in the ultra-sharp Schliemann variation of the Ruy Lopez.

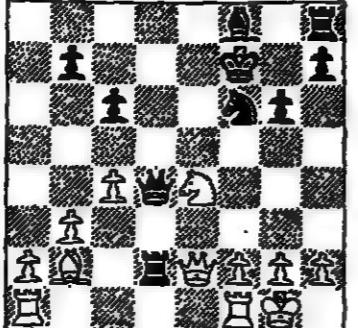
**White:** Garry Kasparov  
**Black:** Jean Crotet  
Simultaneous Display  
Geneva, 1995  
Ray Lopez

1 e4 e5 2 Nf3 Nc6  
3 Bb5 d5 4 Nc3 Nf6 5  
Bb5 Nxe4 6 Qd2 Nc6 7  
Qd2 Nf6 8 Nf3+ Bf7 9  
Qh5+ g6 10 Nxd7+ Qxd7  
11 Qe5+ Kf7

and Wittman saw 19 Re1 Bd6 20 g3  
Re8 21 Qxd3 exd3 22 Rxe5 Bxe5  
when Black's cramping pawns on d3 gives him more than enough  
positional equivalent for his sacrificed pawns.

19 ... Qd4 20 Bb2? This looks like suicide but Kasparov has seen an amazing sequence of tactics.

20 ... Rxe2 21 Nxe4



The characteristic move of the Schliemann. Black plays a kind of King's Gambit with reversed colours. Black players who espouse this line are prepared to give up material in exchange for the initiative.

4 Ne2 f5 5 Nc3 g5  
6 Nxe4 d4 7 Nc6 Qd5  
8 Nf3 Nf6 9 Nf3+ Bf7  
10 Qh5+ g6 11 Nxd7+ Qxd7  
12 Qe5+ Kf7

Ray Lopez

13 Nf3 Nf6 14 Qd4 Qg7  
15 Ne3 Nf6 16 b4 Rb8  
17 Nfd4 Rb4 18 Qe6 Qe5  
19 b3

This is still theory. The alternative for White now — 13 Qxd8 Nf6 14 Nf5 b3 15 Nc3 Re8 16 b3 Bc5 17 Qxg5+ Kxg5 18 h3 Qd3 — gives Black plenty of counterplay.

20 ... Qd5 21 Rxe2 Nf6 22  
Rxe2 Nxe4 23 Nf3+ Kf7 24 Qf7- Kh6 25  
Ne5. The point of the combination  
Kasparov launched on his 20th move. After manifold complications, White wins back his piece, leaves the black king exposed and corners out two pawns ahead.

25 ... Qd5 26 Rxe2 Nf6 27  
Rxe2 Nf6 28 Qd5 29 Rxe2 Nf6  
30 Rxe2 Nf6 31 Rxe2 Nf6 32  
Rxe2 Nf6 33 Rxe2 Nf6 34 Rxe2 Nf6  
35 Rxe2

For Kasparov the remainder is a pure formality. This game will give pause for thought to the numerous devotees of the double-edged Schliemann variation.

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37 Rxe2 Nf6 38 Rxe2 Nf6 39 Rxe2 Nf6  
40 Rxe2 Nf6 41 Rxe2 Nf6 42 Rxe2 Nf6  
43 Rxe2 Nf6 44 Rxe2 Nf6 45 Rxe2 Nf6  
46 Kg3 47 Rxe2 Nf6 48 Rxe2 Nf6

Black resigns.

An important improvement on known theory. The correspondence game from 1978 between Petrushka

and Wittman saw 19 Re1 Bd6 20 g3  
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Rxe2 Nf6 28 Qd5 29 Rxe2 Nf6  
30 Rxe2 Nf6 31 Rxe2 Nf6 32  
Rxe2 Nf6 33 Rxe2 Nf6 34 Rxe2 Nf6  
35 Rxe2

For Kasparov the remainder is a pure formality. This game will give pause for thought to the numerous devotees of the double-edged Schliemann variation.

26 ... Kf8 27 Rxe2 Nf6 28  
Rxe2 Nf6 29 Rxe2 Nf6 30 Rxe2 Nf6  
31 Rxe2 Nf6 32 Rxe2 Nf6 33 Rxe2 Nf6  
34 Rxe2 Nf6 35 Rxe2 Nf6 36 Rxe2 Nf6  
37 Rxe2 Nf6 38 Rxe2 Nf6 39 Rxe2 Nf6  
40 Rxe2 Nf6 41 Rxe2 Nf6 42 Rxe2 Nf6  
43 Rxe2 Nf6 44 Rxe2 Nf6 45 Rxe2 Nf6  
46 Kg3 47 Rxe2 Nf6 48 Rxe2 Nf6

Black resigns.

An important improvement on known theory. The correspondence game from 1978 between Petrushka

and Wittman saw 19 Re1 Bd6 20 g3  
Re8 21 Qxd3 exd3 22 Rxe5 Bxe5  
when Black's cramping pawns on d3 gives him more than enough  
positional equivalent for his sacrificed pawns.

19 ... Qd4 20 Bb2? This looks like suicide but Kasparov has seen an amazing sequence of tactics.

20 ... Rxe2 21 Nxe4

Ray Lopez

13 Nf3 Nf6 14 Qd4 Qg7  
15 Ne3 Nf6 16 b4 Rb8  
17 Nfd4 Rb4 18 Qe6 Qe5  
19 b3

This is still theory. The alternative for White now — 13 Qxd8 Nf6 14 Nf5 b3 15 Nc3 Re8 16 b3 Bc5 17 Qxg



JY110150



My other transport  
is the  
MGF with  
wings

Page 8



Tracing  
the tyre  
tracks of  
motoring  
history



Page 3

SATURDAY APRIL 13 1996

# This thing is bigger than both of us

For Marlboro  
Man, the Dodge  
Ram is fine. But  
**Kevin Eason**  
found it a little  
on the large side

**T**here was only one way to end the squeal of rubber as the tyres scrubbed against the narrow kerbs: I turned the steering up. After all, what is a man to do when he is trying to get a pick-up truck more than 7ft 9ins wide through a road less than 8ft across?

Exactly. Here was I detailed to test a vehicle normally driven by Marlboro Man and I had to get from one end of London to the other. I get streets built for Dinky toys; Marlboro Man had the whole of Arizona to go at.

This was like trying to squeeze the toothpaste back into the tube, only noisier... and in front of a bemused audience, for the Dodge Ram is not exactly a shy and retiring little vehicle, the sort you can discreetly park and walk away without anyone noticing. Park the Ram and most of the city knows about it: mothers send their children out to watch because it could be more entertaining than Power Rangers, more informative than Blue Peter; office workers take their tea breaks around its arrival and even traffic wardens send back to base for extra lollies just in case they get the chance to write their all-time biggest ticket.

We are talking American here, as in BIG... VERY, VERY BIG; the sort of vehicle that takes a city block to turn and generates enough power to put the Space Shuttle into orbit. The mouthful of name badges said it all: this was a Dodge Ram 3500 V10 Magnum Laramie 3LT. You would need a long vehicle just to accommodate that much stickier space — and I had the Dodge Ram, which was not just as wide as the Grand Canyon, but 18ft long and the best part of 7ft tall, counting the array of four floodlights on top of the cab.

There is no way the Ram would go into our local NCP, entertain a parking spot unless it was for two normal-sized vehicles or negotiate ordinary streets where a man on a bike becomes a major obstruction.

**A**nd under that bonnet was no clattering diesel, just an 8-litre V10 with 300 brake horse power — the equivalent of roping together three Escorts and lashing them to the giant red bodywork.

The Ram was built for the Great Outdoors, for the open skies and the long, straight roads of the mid-West — not the one-way system through Watford and the tortuous entrance to Sainsbury's car park.

Americans adore the Ram — in fact, they love all kinds of pick-ups. Pick-up trucks account for three of the five best-selling vehicles in the US this year. Number one in the sales charts is the Ford F-series, followed by the Chevrolet C/K with the Dodge Ram at number five. Ford has sold 314,000



Rambo the Dodge Ram 3500 V10 Magnum Laramie 3LT — crazy name, crazy car — generates enough power to put the Space Shuttle into orbit, but in a London street a man on a bike becomes a major obstruction

cars in the US this year but 488,000 pick-ups, and the story is the same for Dodge: 108,422 cars compared with 214,000 pick-ups, all hard-charging Rams. Compare that with little old Britain where the diminutive Ford Escort tops the sales charts followed by the tiny Fiat Fiorino.

But, according to the latest wisdom, Britain is ready for a new craze, a sales void which pick-ups like the Ram are ready to fill. Saloons began hatchbacks which began GTIs, then 4x4s and people movers, the latest Fad of the Day. Pick-ups could be next.

Peter Rawlinson, British public relations director for Chrysler, which owns Dodge, says: "Who knows? We would love to sell a vehicle like the Ram, and we have already had people ringing to try to buy this one. Pick-ups have been big in the US for a long time and it could be that the drivers who want leisure vehicles but want a change from the usual 4x4 or people mover might want to try a pick-up."

Maybe... if it was just a

**DODGE RAM**  
Price: £21,710.  
Engine: Eight-litre, 20-valve V10, for 300bhp at 4,000rpm, 5-speed gearbox, 4-wheel-drive/low-ratio gearbox.  
Performance: 0-60mph in about 8.5 seconds, top speed 112mph.  
Fuel economy:  
There isn't any.  
Equipment: Superlative stereo, cruise control, driver's airbag and enough lamps to floodlight Old Trafford.



little smaller. I mean, I approached the Ram in the best spirit, deciding to go native with the Marlboro Man look to fit the Marlboro Man's pick-up. I held my breath to get into a pair of tight blue jeans, put on a neat, checked lumberjack shirt and topped off with the 10-gallon hat and intimidating shades. Climbing the 2ft on the steel running board to get into the cab wearing the

tight jeans was a bit of a challenge (was Marlboro Man rendered impotent by his Levi's, I wonder), but once inside, the cabin — designed by Brit Trevor Creed — had plenty of hat room.

There might only be a cosy three-bench seat, but the steering wheel was as familiar as a car's, with buttons for cruise control, while the stereo was better than the one in my

living room. The manual gear shift was straight from a truck though and the gearing on first so low that I never used it. Town running usually needed only second or third, so great was the torque from the engine that comes straight out of Dodge's legendary Viper sports car.

All that power — and that sheer size... Yeeh ha!

(if I might quote the words of Clint

Eastwood, a popular character actor in films of the Wild West genre.) He would have whipped his saddle and kicked his spurs as the Ram left a trail of dust across the desert. I was off down the Holloway Road, and I started with the warnings of Rawlinson and his Chrysler crew ringing in my ears.

In the letter covering the loan of the vehicle, Rawlinson

made no bones about the fact that the Ram was a rarity in Britain and its power was not to be toyed with. "The cost of any abuse of the rear tyres will be passed to the journalist to whom the loan was made." I recalled as the Ram squeaked its way down that back lane behind the offices of *The Times*, rear wheels scrapping along the narrow track.

At last on to the open road,

but Rawlinson's words, seared into my brain, fired me into reality like a shot from Colt 45: "Normally we say a vehicle can be replaced, it's the occupants that matter, but with the Ram we are willing to make an exception." Gulp.

A press of the throttle and the Ram surged forward, bouncing on its long suspension struts like a speedboat nosing into the waves. But the power came smoothly, pushing the huge truck into the rear view mirrors of drivers ahead who must have thought they were being trailed by Smokey and the Bandit.

All I needed now was the cactus and the red mountains, so I could pull up and survey the desert like Marlboro Man, grey smoke spiralling from the tip of my cigarette, my eyes squinting against the glare of the bright sun.

Actually I pulled my hat down against the drizzle as I parked against the hillocks of Hertfordshire and unwrapped a toffee. Maybe I should face the fact I'm just not cut out to be a Ram driver ...

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Thanks to readers of *Car 96*, the list of Coventry's missing heritage is much shorter. Tony Dawe reports

## A city's wheels of history that still turn

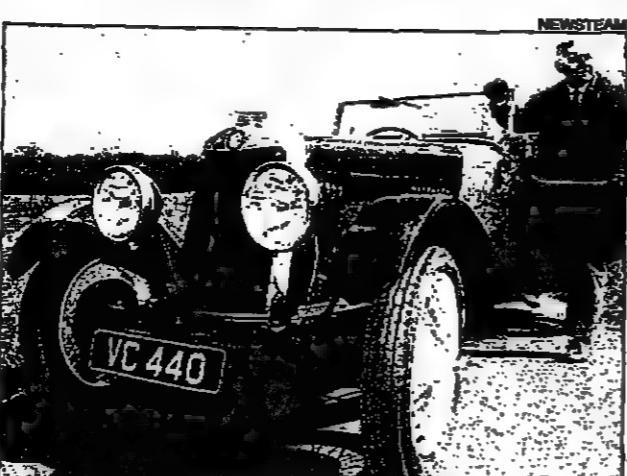
The search for the missing Coventry cars, launched by *Car 96* three weeks ago, has inspired readers to comb attics for memorabilia, dust off old photograph albums and even present models that motor historians thought they would never see.

Many did not realise that the cars they possess—or used to own—are rare, and most had bought them in their youth in the 1940s and 1950s when they "could not afford anything better".

The hunt was started to help officials in Coventry to find as many makes as possible to feature in the centenary year of the British industry. Of the 132 carmakers which had set up in the city in the past 100 years, they could find only 40 whose models had survived. The missing list is now shorter and vital clues have been provided to help trace some of the more elusive models. Historians have learnt of cars they didn't know they were looking for and one reader has even offered the city's Museum of British Road Transport two rare Coventry-made cars.

In launching the hunt, *Car 96* featured Cluley, a 1920s manufacturer whose models seemed to have disappeared completely, and two historic cars: the Hillman Straight 8 Segrave, named after the legendary racing driver of the 1920s and from the well-known maker absorbed by bigger companies; and the Lea-Francis Hyper, one of which triumphed in the 1928 Ulster TT race, from a company that expired in 1954.

Readers were quick on the trail of the Cluley and we have been told of nine in existence, including one owned jointly by the grandson of the company's founder and his cousin (see below). While still searching for the Hyper, we have at least



**MOTOR CITY COVENTRY**

found a Lea-Francis, which was built for the 1929 Le Mans 24-hour race and is now owned by Nick Alexander, the Segrave Hillman remains elusive.

David Mortimer wrote from Budleigh Salterton, Devon, that he had bought a Hillman Segrave coupé as his first car in 1952. "It cost me £10 and a portable typewriter," he recalled.

"It was a four-cylinder car of some 16 brake horsepower with a wood and fabric body and still had its owner's manual—which contained instructions for getting to the factory at Ryton near Coventry."

"It had an annoying right-side handbrake, which made entry and exit a bit awkward. The brakes were individually adjusted by star wheels, the front being set to come on just before the rear. As the brakes also suffered from noisy judder, emergency stops were something to be avoided. The previous owner had recommended and provided me with graphite powder to ease them."

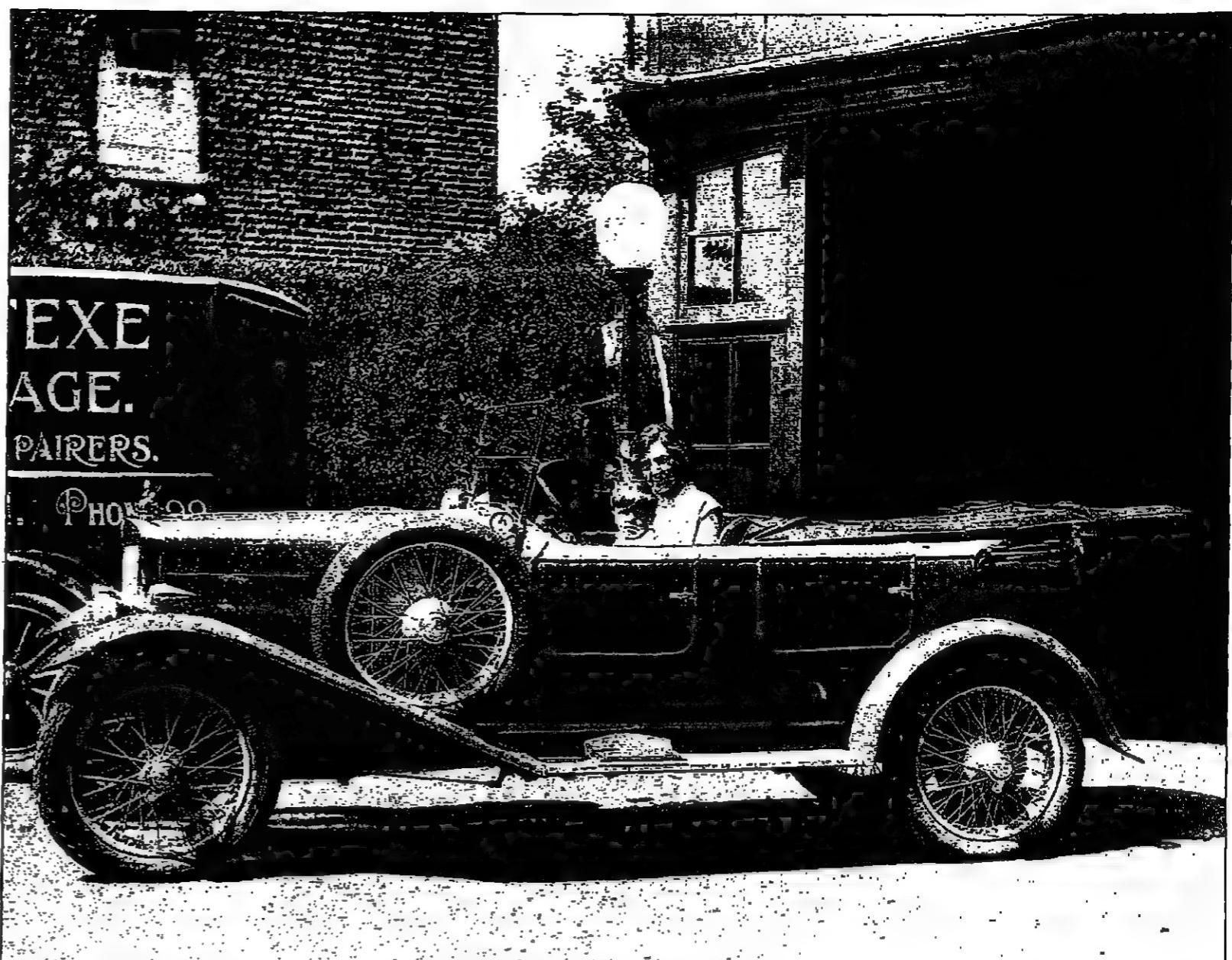
"I did several trips from Kent to Cornwall in it, however, and even managed 55mph downhill. It gave me many happy hours of double de-clutching which stood me in good stead afterwards when the clutch cable snapped on more modern cars on two occasions."

"But I have heard of it since then. After a picture appeared in *Classic Car* in April 1985, a Mr Hopper wrote asking if I knew what had happened to it. I was a young and impetuous car fan in those days and eventually found the vehicle too involved to restore and gave it away," he said.

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Motoring memories: three-year-old Douglas Kaye Don Holland and his mother in his father's four-door Lea Francis outside their home in Devon

Mr Mortimer's story has a sad ending, however. The Hillman Segrave eventually ground to a halt, it was given a company car and the classic was sent to the scrapyard.

The hunt for the Lea-Francis Hyper, driven to victory in Ulster by Kaye Don, has produced an entertaining story, if not the car itself. Douglas Kaye Don Holland wrote from Tiverton, Devon, to tell us that his father, a garage owner between the world wars, was such a fan of famous racing drivers that he was named after the Ulster victor and his brother after Sir Malcolm Campbell. Holland even enclosed a photograph of himself, aged three, with his

mother in a four-door Lea-Francis his father had owned.

The historic Lea-Francis

owned by Mr Alexander has just been restored by Barry Price at his Warwick workshop and is set to join a cavalcade of former Le Mans entries which will lap the circuit before this year's race on June 15/16.

"It looks better than new," a proud Mr Alexander said. "I didn't buy it because of its provenance; it was the sort of car to buy in 1950 when I purchased it because there was a long wait for new cars and they were too expensive. I only learnt its history later."

The Lea-Francis had won

used it as my daily transport and I also did speed trials and rallies in it," he said. "I then embarked on a career and had no time for such frivolities and the car was neglected. But 18 months ago I entrusted it to Barry Price and now plan to treasure it because it is unique: the only surviving Le Mans Lea-Francis in the world."

He and his car will be invited to join the display of Coventry cars planned in the city on August Bank Holiday Monday by the local museum.

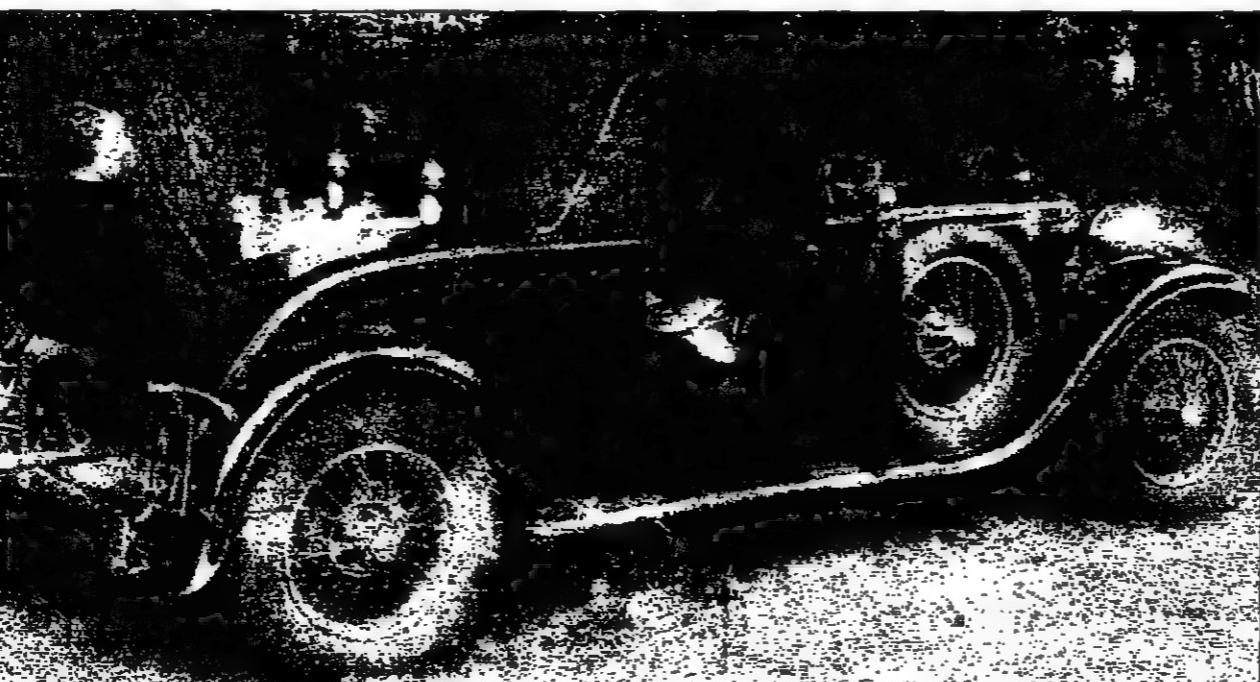
For its part, the museum has received a tempting invitation from a *Car 96* reader, Norman Milne of Kinghorn, Fife, is offering two rare Coventry-built cars to the mu-

seum on extended loan: a 1949 Hillman Minx Phase III saloon and a 1953 Sunbeam Talbot 90 Mark II A sports saloon.

"The Hillman is the very first production Phase III off the line at Ryton in late 1948, the wide, full-width, curved screen model, not the prewar rehash of 1946 and is indeed very special," he said.

The Sunbeam is a significant Coventry car, being the outright winner of the 1955 Monte Carlo Rally, and although the New Sunbeam car museum in Scotland would like to take the car, it would be far more appropriate to have it on permanent display in Coventry."

## Where is George Formby's favourite?



Taking a back seat: Roger Cooper's mother relaxes in her Hillman Straight 8 Segrave after a "fairly alcoholic picnic"

ALTHOUGH the name Hillman may be more familiar than the other two marques we chose for our first search for Coventry's lost cars, the model we illustrated, the Straight 8 Segrave, is proving elusive, writes Alan Capps.

The model was apparently named after the great racing driver Sir Henry Segrave after he had been impressed by one of the company's four-cylinder cars at the 1927 Olympia Motor Show.

Our quest has brought forth a host of entertaining anecdotes and photographs, not least that supplied by Roger Cooper of Rickmansworth, Herts. The photograph shows his mother enjoying what he describes as "a fairly alcoholic picnic" in the back of such a car she owned in the 1930s.

"The car was constructed by my grandfather, Tom Owen, who was one of many small one-man-band coachbuilders at the time," says Mr Cooper. "His premises were in Park Crescent Mews, London W1 and the car was made for Mr Justice Sachs. My mother purchased it in 1933/4. She ran it for two or three years before selling it in favour of a Riley Kestrel saloon, presumably my fault."

The registration UW 4467 is

clear on the original photograph and may give readers a clue to its fate. Mr Cooper says he believes the car was the undoing of the Hillman company because they were venturing into a luxury market with which they were not

familiar. In 1928 the company merged with its neighbour, Humber, and two years later both became part of the Rootes Group.

Other sightings of the Segrave Hillman come from Leyland, Lancs, in the 1960s,

and we are checking on one in Essex which was due to be on the market this month.

One celebrity owner of such a car was the comic singer George Formby. "Around 1928/29 he was appearing at a theatre in Salford, Lancashire,

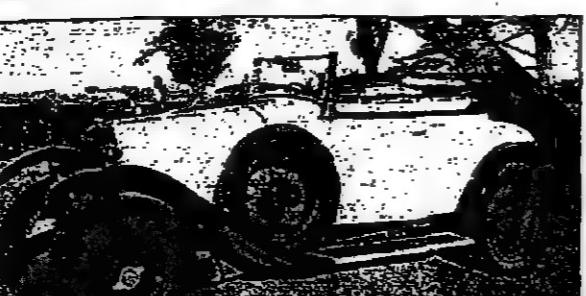
and lived in Blackpool. Every night after the show he drove home to Blackpool, which was considered very daring in those days. I spoke to him one night and he said it was the best car in the world," reports Mr F.E. Greaves of Anglesey.

Outstanding names

THIS is the British Museum of Road Transport's list of companies set up to make cars in Coventry with approximate date of manufacture. Examples of those in bold are known to exist; any clues about others would be welcome. Write to Coventry Cars, Car 96, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9QH.

Academy 1906-08; Acme 1919; Aircraft 1923-24; Allard 1929-30; Arden 1920-57; Andy House 1933-4; Arden 1912-16; Aerial 1922-25; Armstrong-Siddeley 1919-60; Amo 1906; Aurora 1903-04; Auto Forge 1907-12; Autovia 1937-38; Avson 1926-32; B & A 1937-38; Barnett 1925-30; Bayless 1926-30; Beecons 1936; Billings 1900; Branca 1902; BSA; Buckingham 1913-22; Calcutta 1913-28; Carbodies 1943-45; Carlton 1901-02; Centaur 1900-01; Challenge 1919-25; Charron 1913; Cirandon 1902-03; Clement 1908-14; Cimarron (White & Poppe) 1905-07; Cluley 1922-28; Condor 1907; Cooper 1919-23; Coronet 1906-08; Couder 1922; Coventry Motette 1896-1900; Cowdrey 1913-19; Cresta 1913-19; Daimler 1907-13; Daimler 1925-32; Daimler 1906-10; Davison 1925-30; Dawson 1921; Dessa 1908-11; Doherty 1908-12; Duray 1902-08; Dubson 1906-10; Eagle 1912-13; Emme 1922-25; Endurance 1899-01; Ferguson 1950-12; Ford 1903-08; Forman 1904-06; Gernard & Bloomfield 1894-95; Glover 1912-13; Godin 1905-10; Grinnell 1906-10; Hillman 1907-19; Hobart-Bird 1906-10; Holchris 1920; Hubbard 1906-10; Hunter 1895-1900; Hurley 1906-10; Ident 1904-07; Jaguer 1945-47; Lady 1898; Lanchester 1890-55; Lea-Francis 1904; Lee-Stryker 1904; Lee-Ebb 1926; Lott 1912-13; Mason 8; Buckingham 1912-13; Marconi 1919-25; Maudslay 1902-19; MHC 1898-04; Morris 1896-1905; Morris 1906-10; Morris 1919-25; Norton 1913; Omega 1925-27; Peugeot 1900-01; Premier 1912-14; Prinloy 1901-05; Progress 1898-03; Ragnay 1898-1900; Ranger 1913-14; Record 1905; Remington 1925-30; Rex 1907-14; Ridley 1901-07; Riley 1904-08; Rover 1904-14; Rudolph 1912-13; Ryder 1900-14; Ryely 1901-02; Shamrock 1900; Siddeley, Siddle-Deasy 1912-19; Singer 1902-06; Standard 1903-02; Stonehouse 1901; Stonewall 1912-24; Talbot 1979-81; Taylor-Swift 1913; Tlam 1911; Triumph 1923-31; Vauxhall 1922-24; Vernon 1906-10; Vining 1914; Warwick 1926-32; West-Nester 1904-14.

### SURGICAL OPERATION ON A RARE BODY OF WORK



Noel Pizsey's 1923 Bentley; a surprise for the experts

repainted in its original cream colour.

"One of the highlights of the year, however, is when we join the Bentley drivers' club outing to Brittany, where this picture was taken. It continues to run beautifully and needs just half a turn to start."

In its early days, Carbodies also made coachwork for Rolls-Royce.

It had been lovingly rebuilt by Noel Pizsey of Bath, who used his skill as a surgeon to take the car completely apart, bolt by bolt, apart from the gearbox. The chassis was shot-blasted, new piston rings provided for the engine and the car

was repainted in its original cream colour.

"I bought it in 1957 to get me to and from work and paid only £175 because dealers thought the design of these cars rather uninteresting," he said. "I used it every day for years, but now that it is insured for £100,000 I don't take it out too often."

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Charles, and uncle Norman joined the firm.

"By 1928, hundreds of cars had been made, but by then people like Morris were making similar cars at a lower price. Unlike many other Coventry carmakers, grandfather saw the light and pulled out of the motor business before losing all his money and went on to make components for Rolls-Royce aeroengines."

The company moved to Kenilworth during the blitz, but later returned to a home on the Coventry trading estate. After the family sold it, the company struggled to survive and is now in receivership.

Armstrong added that Clarke Cluley was an unusual car company because it tried to make everything, including engines, in-house instead of buying in ready-made parts. "The Cluley is a very robustly-built light car of conventional design, well-engineered and of the utmost simplicity," he said. "Hand-built in small batches, it could not hope to compete with the larger manufacturers whose cars were very similar but cheaper and better equipped."

After selling the company in the late 1980s, the Cluleys decided to rebuild the car.

"Hand-built in small batches,

it could not hope to compete with the larger manufacturers whose cars were very similar but cheaper and better equipped."

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Armstrong added that Clarke Cl





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# Adaptable on land and in the air

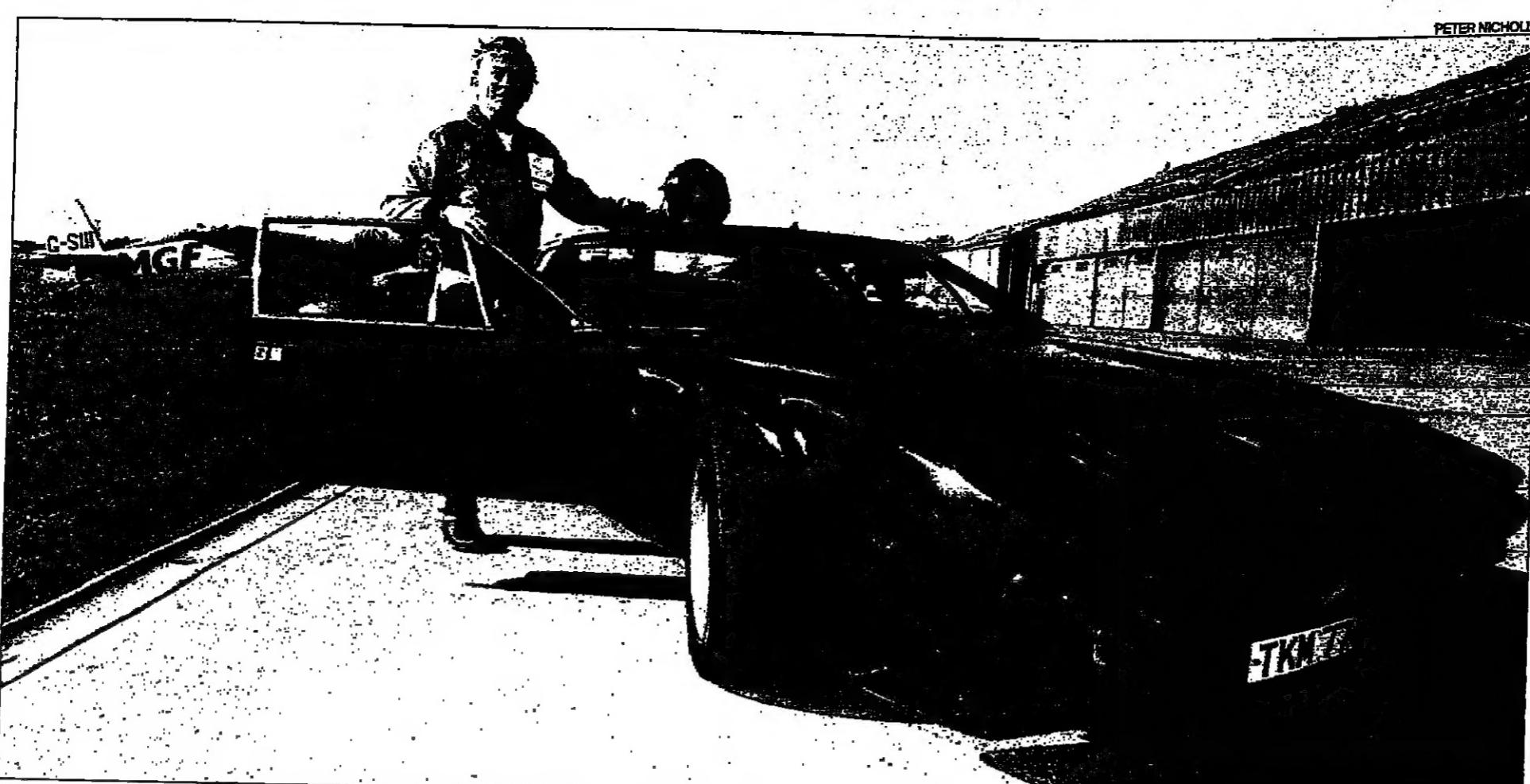
Brian Lecomber tells David Long about his 'MG' that flies and a classic change

**B**rian Lecomber's two-seater MG is probably the world's fastest — it should be, it cost him the best part of £150,000 — and is perfect for his job as a professional display pilot. But weekends off see him at the wheel of a rare De Tomaso Pantera, and after several years spent modifying this much-maligned Italian he has finally got it sorted.

His "MGF" — actually one of two German-built Extra 500 monoplanes currently sponsored by the Rover Group — is powered by an American Lycoming nine-litre flat-six engine and develops around 300 horsepower. Roughly similar, in fact, to the output of another famous six-cylinder "boxer" engine, the one in the back of the Porsche 911 Carrera, although with its incredible power-to-weight ratio the Extra is faster and more manoeuvrable than anything built by Porsche.

In Brian's work, manoeuvrability is absolutely crucial. A Boeing 747, he will tell you, can roll through 90 degrees in around 10 seconds, but his Extra can do it in less than one. Only that is the time it takes to flip right over, all the way round, and lock back into level flight again, a stomach-churning manoeuvre he has completed thousands of times. In fact Britain's former Free-style Aerobatic Champion admits to not knowing exactly how many displays he has flown over the last two decades, but reckons it must be at least 1,300.

He and his flying partner in



Brian Lecomber and his De Tomaso Pantera: "It is a classic of its era, the original box-o'-bits special. Even people at the factory will agree there is no such thing as a standard specification"

Firebird Aerobatics. Alan Wade, both hold the very rare Display Authorisation to fly Unlimited (World Class). This no-holds-barred licence entitles them to demonstrate high-speed flying manoeuvres down to a base height of only 30 feet, enabling the pair to devise and execute spectacular displays and to build a formidable reputation as the country's premier, civilian aerobatic display team.

It is hardly surprising, therefore, that when it comes to driving, Brian has picked something slightly out of the ordinary. The American-en-

gined Italian-designed Pantera is not his first classic car; he once sold a favourite Jaguar XK140 to raise the money to gain his flying instructor's rating.

It is seven years since he stopped buying new cars, and four since he acquired the Pantera, but there have been several interesting machines along the way. As well as an "improved" Jaguar V12 saloon which he still owns, Brian has run other XJs, a 1987 Chevrolet Corvette and a Lamborghini Jalpa. The latter, sadly, was somewhat under-used during his 18 months as its

custodian, but it introduced Brian to Italian cars and so, indirectly, led him to the De Tomaso. It was, he says, both a pleasure and a pain.

I loved driving it, and I still prefer it to the rival Ferrari 308. That handled very well, but the electrics were a nightmare and it was much too expensive to repair, which was why the Pantera looked like a sensible alternative."

Introduced to the UK in 1972, although very few were sold with right-hand drive, the Pantera offered a combination

of a stylish European body (and name) with a powerful but relatively cheap and durable American V8. "It wasn't a new concept even then. Iso did it in Italy and AC with the Cobra, but I wanted a car with a roof so the Cobra was out and the rarity of the Iso meant body repairs for even the slightest ding would be back up to Jalpa levels."

With a good support network and parts available from the United States, the Pantera seemed perfect. Well, almost. "I eventually found one of the rare right-hookers, and it did look beautiful, but

the performance was very disappointing."

The solution was drastic. As well as improving the suspension and up-rating the brakes, he had the standard 5.7-litre bored and stroked out to 6.4 and around 400 horsepower.

"More fun," says Brian, who after a period spent as a BMW racing bike mechanic, freely admits that "there is no such thing as too much power." Neither does he feel guilty about customising a classic, arguing that half of the Panthers in the owners' club have been modified in one way or another.

"It's still a bit of a handful, but I like the Pantera because it is a classic of its era, the original box-o'-bits special. Even people at the factory will agree that there is no such thing as a standard specification. They frequently switched suppliers when components ran out.

"The steering rack on mine, for example, comes from a left-hand drive Austin Allegro; other Panthers probably have something else. De Tomaso just fitted what they felt worked well at the time and as owners we are simply continuing the tradition."

## DRIVERS Why your local Rover dealer is closing

**Q** A few years ago the friendly little garage I'd always relied on ceased to be a Rover dealer. Now I hear that the main dealer who has looked after my cars since then may face the same fate. What's going on?

**A** You are suffering the combined symptoms of high technology, Rover's move upmarket and falling car sales. The manufacturers call it restructuring, we doctors refer to it as a cutback.

**Q** But if it's getting more difficult to sell cars, surely having plenty of dealers to provide after-sales service is important?

**A** Things simply aren't that straightforward in the automotive jungle. First of all, Rover is planning to sell fewer and more expensive cars, rather than lots of family runabouts. Second, because modern cars are packed with more and more electronics and other advanced technologies, only dealers who can afford the right equipment are able to service them properly, thus keeping your warranty valid. So the cheerful little mechanic who runs his own garage is being squeezed.

**Q** But I like to know just who is tinkering with my daily transport. Is this the end of the personal touch?

**A** According to Rover, this reorganisation "will create a business in which premium-positioned cars are sold through premium outlets seeking lifetime relationships with customers".

**Q** I see. Just how many dealers are going to get the chop then?

**A** Rover has 511 dealers at present, that's half as many as it had five years ago. The company wants to reduce the number by another 150.

**Q** And if they are going to sell fewer cars, will the cars get better as a result?

**A** Rover is now owned by BMW and they have made clear they want to concentrate on luxury models rather than competing head-on with the mass producers. They expect to see Rover's market share in Britain fall from 13 per cent last year to between 9 and 10 per cent. The crucial model, the first developed with BMW, will be introduced in 1998 to replace the 600 and 800 ranges.

## Mud bogs and Englishmen

Guy Walters on tough going in the Camel Trophy

**T**he participants in the Camel Trophy are struggling through the vilest glop that Indonesia can offer. Despite months of selections and training, none of the teams can have anticipated the hideousness of building bridges over mosquito-infested waters in 43°C. At that temperature, even a game of low-stakes backgammon will have armpits glowing.

Bodies have become noticeably more defined over this first week, as the teams heave

bridging ladders and push 2½ tons of laden Land Rover Discoverys up inclines that are normally only seen in cartoons. However, the fitness has a price. Trench foot, viral infections, sunburn and even fits have been treated by the convoy's doctor.



The UK team struggles back on to the road; some inclines are normally only seen in cartoons

The gross mugginess of the jungle is alien to many teams, including the British. John Leach and William Tapley arrived in Balikpapan on the far east of Borneo, expecting it to be hot, but not fried-egg-on-a-bonnet sweltering. Nevertheless, they managed to

pack the Discovery with a speedy efficiency. The sight of nearly 40 Camel-branded Land Rovers was unusual for a hotel car park, and especially so for the local children, who thronged around each car demanding trophy stickers. Teenage girls who had

their pictures taken with team members sported grins normally reserved for pop stars.

After a day of special tasks, upon which the mildly competitive element of this event is based, the convoy started its 1,150-mile journey. Leach and Tapley had wired in a stereo,

so we rocked and rolled to a river crossing that lasted 12 hours and ended at 4.30am. The boatman earned as much in those hours as he would have done in two years. The villagers watched in disbelief as team members stood up to their chests in the tidal river, directing a delicate loading operation on to the ferry.

Attempting to stay clean is near impossible. Mud cakes us and the vehicle floor, old boil-in-the-bags float in the mud and litter luggage lockers in this in-car quagmire. It feels a bit like the car I drive.

Despite appearances, the Discovery performs excellently. On Wednesday, Tapley gunned the vehicle through crater-lined roads at an extraordinary pace. Then at the end of the day, he nearly

managed to lose it on a rickety bridge. As he accelerated over the bamboo slats, the rear-left wheel crunched through, leaving several feet of chasm yawning expectantly. Thanks to the efforts of all the teams, the car was eventually winched across.

By Thursday, the convoy was already behind schedule. Because the rains were so violent, many bridges have been washed away. These need to be rebuilt or an alternative route found.

On Easter Monday we had another narrow escape. As the vehicle proceeded down a washed-out road, the sand surface gave way, leaving the right-hand side virtually in thin air. Again, it was only winching and snatching that availed an early flight home.

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